64 COLOR Pages

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WARP GRAPHICS Annual

#1

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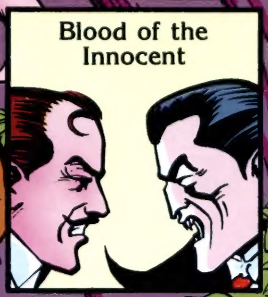

First time ever — two brand-new features!

WaRP GRAPHICS ANNUAL #1 • 1986

Richard Pini, editor/publisher

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ELFQUEST
"Courage, By Any Other Name. . ."

Wendy and Richard Pini, script • Debbie Hayes, pencils • Paul Abrams, inks • Clem Robins, letters • Lee Marrs, colors

Before the burning of the holt, when ***Bearclaw*** *was still chief, the young elf* ***Redmark*** *faced his first great test of courage.*

MYTHADVENTURES
"Mything Lessons"

Robert Asprin and Phil Foglio, plot • Asprin and Valentino, script • Valentino, art • Diane Valentino, letters • Valentino and Diane, colors

In a time-out from their travels, ***Aahz*** *decides to give* ***Skeeve*** *a lesson in magic.*

A DISTANT SOIL
"R & R"

Colleen Doran, script and art • Bob Pinaha, letters • Kathryn Mayer, colors

Intrepid revolutionary ***Brent Donewitz*** *decides to get to know fellow freedom fighter* ***Bast*** *a bit better — but Bast bites back!*

THUNDERBUNNY
"Elf Quest"

Martin L. Greim, script • Brian Buniak, art & letters • Janice Cohen, colors

The little old lady said she saw elves in the park — but no one else could, including ***Thunderbunny****. Why then, did someone want her dead?*

PANDA KHAN
"In the Belly of the Golden Whale"

Monica Sharp, script • Dave Garcia, art and colors • I.T.C. Font, letters

If the gods had wanted pandas to fly. . .

BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT
"Christmas Spirits"

Rickey Shanklin and Mark Wheatley, script • Marc Hempel, pencils • Wheatley, inks • Kathryn Mayer and Hempel, letters • Mayer and Wheatley, colors

Haunted by the fear of ***Dracula****,* ***Jack the Ripper*** *seeks escape in the one place where the Lord of Darkness cannot possibly hurt him. . .*

CAPTAIN OBESE
"The Utripneen Connection"

Don Lomax, script, art, letters • Bruce Patterson, colors

Meet ***Captain Obese****, Great Protector of the elves of Awe San Tan, as he faces the danger of the Mud-Hole Maggot-Suckers! Will he fall apart in his first adventure?* ***First appearance anywhere!***

UNICORN ISLE
"Circus Flambe"

Lee Marrs, script, layouts, and colors • Nicholas Koenig, pencils • Romeo Tanghal, inks • Carrie Spiegel, letters

Meet ***Nils*** *and* ***Nola*** *(the twins) and* ***Lansoar*** *(the winged unicorn), fugitives from the forces of tyranny and technology.* ***First appearance anywhere!***

Cover: Main art by Debbie Hayes and Paul Abrams. Production by Peppy White and Mark Wheatley. Colors by Mark Wheatley.

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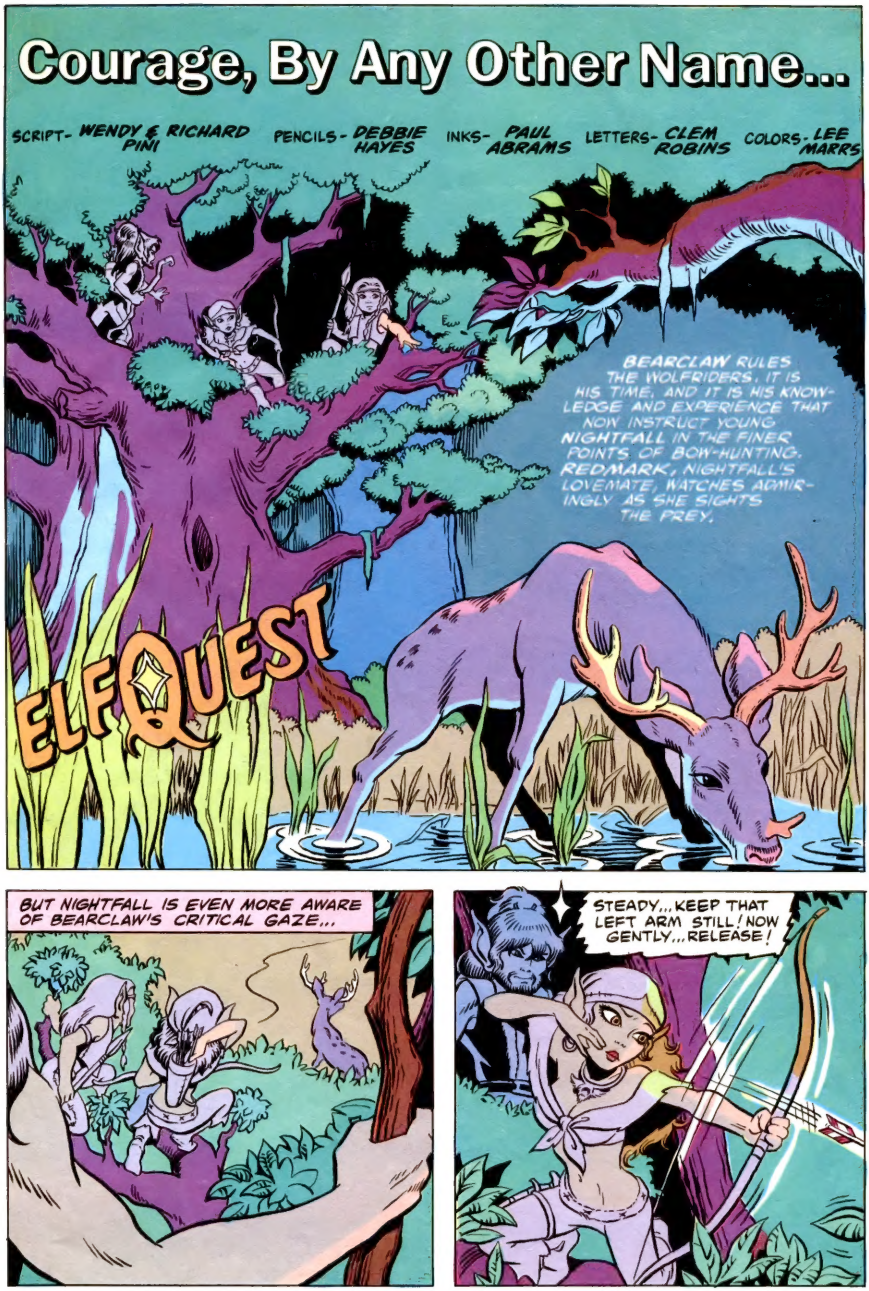
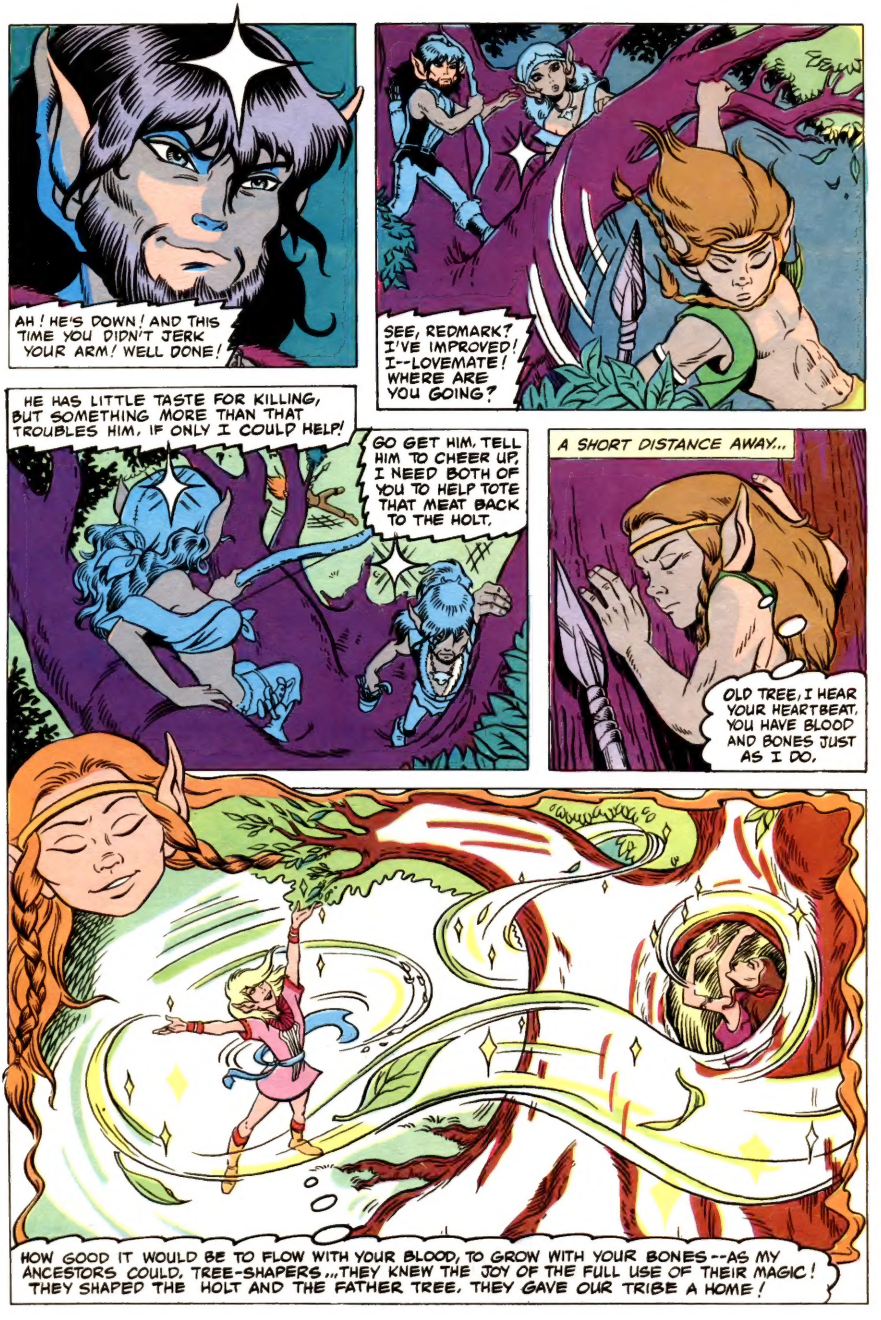
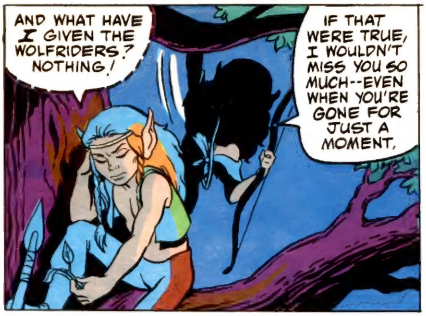
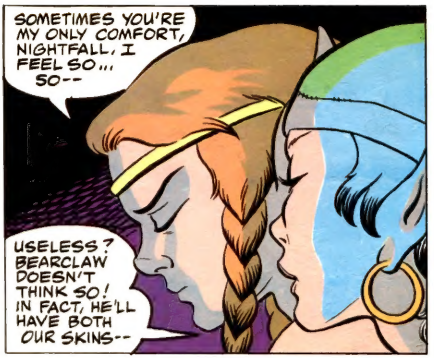
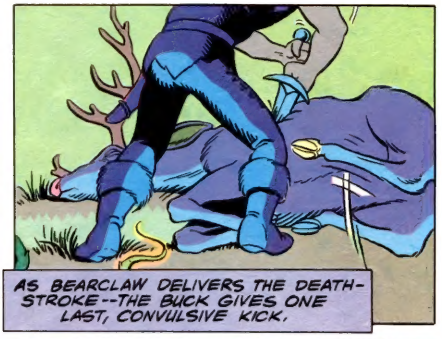

Courage, By Any Other Name...
SCRIPT- WENDY & RICHARD PINI
PENCILS- DEBBIE HAYES
INKS- PAUL ABRAMS
LETTERS- CLEM ROBINS
COLORS- LEE MARRS
BEARCLAW RULES THE WOLFRIDERS. IT IS HIS TIME, AND IT IS HIS KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE THAT NOW INSTRUCT YOUNG NIGHTFALL IN THE FINER POINTS OF BOW-HUNTING. REDMARK, NIGHTFALL'S LOVEMATE, WATCHES ADMIRINGLY AS SHE SIGHTS THE PREY.
ELFQUEST
BUT NIGHTFALL IS EVEN MORE AWARE OF BEARCLAW'S CRITICAL GAZE...
STEADY... KEEP THAT LEFT ARM STILL! NOW GENTLY... RELEASE!

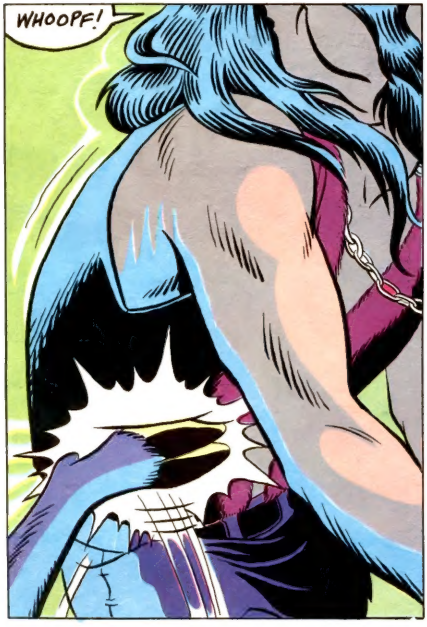

AH! HE'S DOWN! AND THIS TIME YOU DIDN'T JERK YOUR ARM! WELL DONE!
SEE, REDMARK? I'VE IMPROVED! I--LOVEMATE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HE HAS LITTLE TASTE FOR KILLING, BUT SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT TROUBLES HIM. IF ONLY I COULD HELP!
GO GET HIM, TELL HIM TO CHEER UP, I NEED BOTH OF YOU TO HELP TOTE THAT MEAT BACK TO THE HOLT.
A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...
OLD TREE, I HEAR YOUR HEARTBEAT, YOU HAVE BLOOD AND BONES JUST AS I DO,
HOW GOOD IT WOULD BE TO FLOW WITH YOUR BLOOD, TO GROW WITH YOUR BONES--AS MY ANCESTORS COULD, TREE-SHAPERS...THEY KNEW THE JOY OF THE FULL USE OF THEIR MAGIC! THEY SHAPED THE HOLT AND THE FATHER TREE. THEY GAVE OUR TRIBE A HOME!


AND WHAT HAVE I GIVEN THE WOLFRIDERS? NOTHING!
IF THAT WERE TRUE, I WOULDN'T MISS YOU SO MUCH--EVEN WHEN YOU'RE GONE FOR JUST A MOMENT.

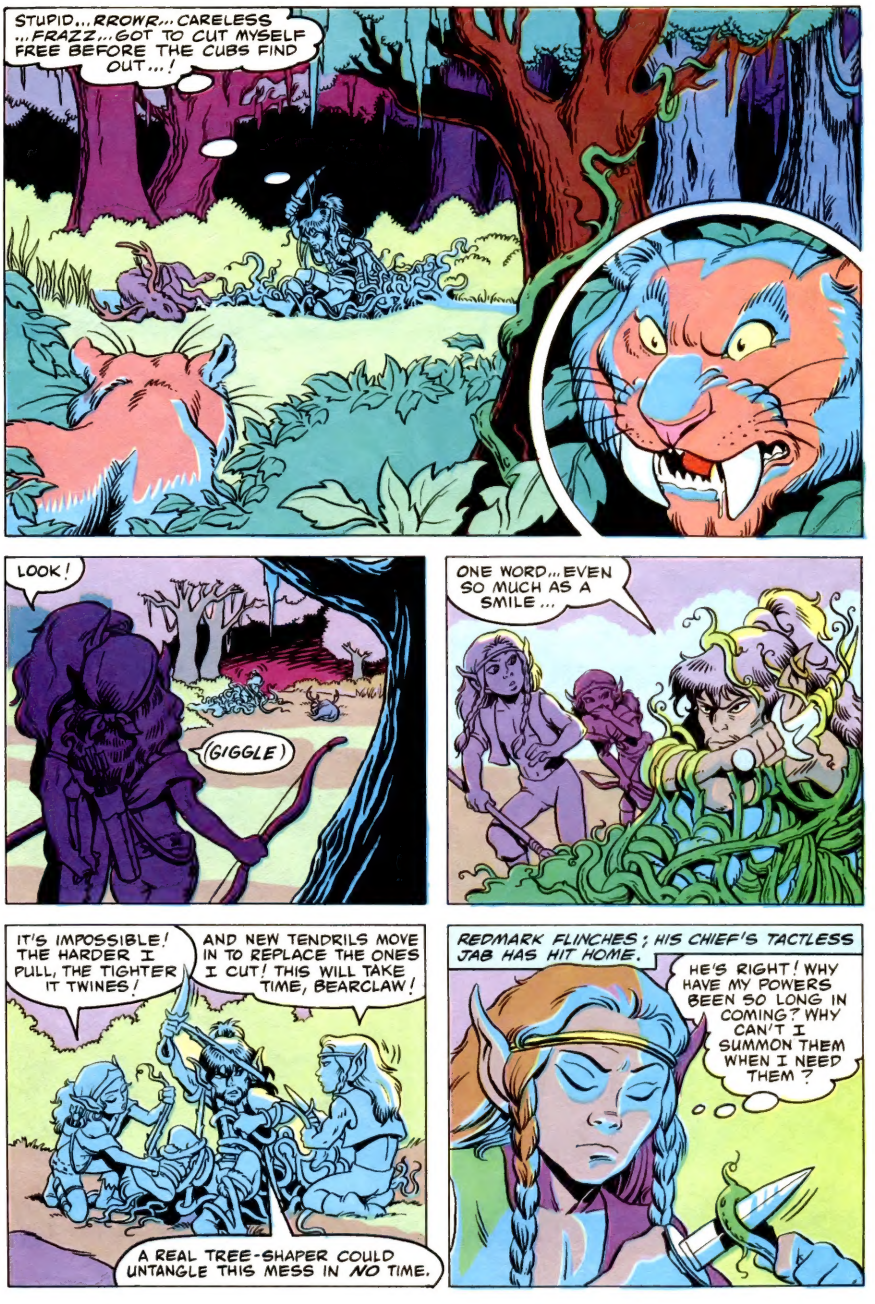

SOMETIMES YOU'RE MY ONLY COMFORT, NIGHTFALL. I FEEL SO... SO--
USELESS? BEARCLAW DOESN'T THINK SO! IN FACT, HE'LL HAVE BOTH OUR SKINS--

"--IF WE DON'T HURRY AND HELP HIM WITH THAT BUCK."
HMPH! HER AIM STILL NEEDS WORK. ...IT'S NOT A CLEAN KILL.


AS BEARCLAW DELIVERS THE DEATH-STROKE--THE BUCK GIVES ONE LAST, CONVULSIVE KICK.

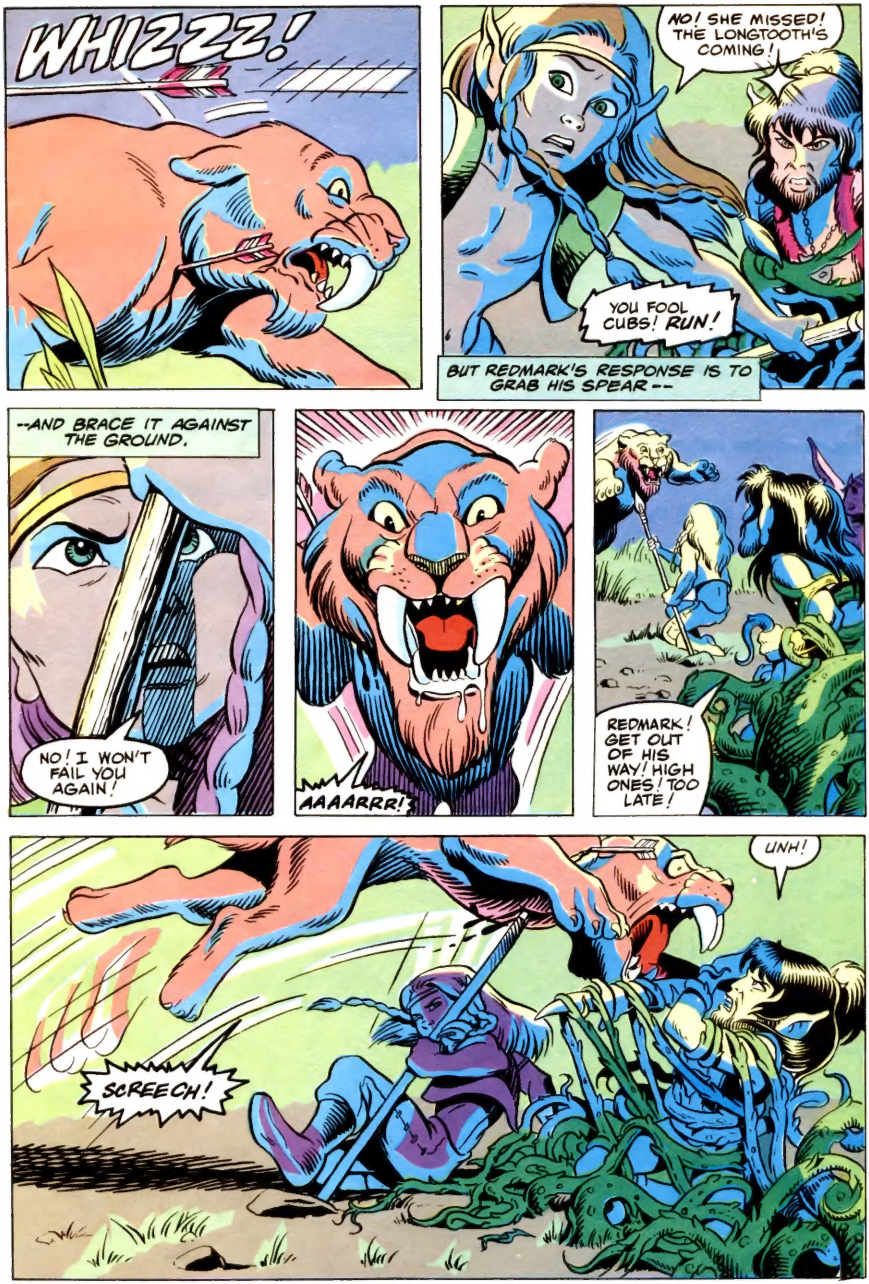

WHOOPF!

WHA--? OH, HAIRBALLS! NOT STRANGLEWEED!


STUPID... RROWR... CARELESS ...FRAZZ... GOT TO CUT MYSELF FREE BEFORE THE CUBS FIND OUT...!
LOOK!
(GIGGLE)
ONE WORD... EVEN SO MUCH AS A SMILE...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE HARDER I PULL, THE TIGHTER IT TWINES!
AND NEW TENDRILS MOVE IN TO REPLACE THE ONES I CUT! THIS WILL TAKE TIME, BEARCLAW!
A REAL TREE-SHAPER COULD UNTANGLE THIS MESS IN NO TIME.
REDMARK FLINCHES; HIS CHIEF'S TACTLESS JAB HAS HIT HOME.
HE'S RIGHT! WHY HAVE MY POWERS BEEN SO LONG IN COMING? WHY CAN'T I SUMMON THEM WHEN I NEED THEM?

HIGH ONES, PLEASE LET ME PROVE MYSELF...
UNNNHH... NOW! LET IT HAPPEN NOW!
:GROAN!: IT'S NO USE! I'M NO USE!
RUSTLE
SNARRL
:GASP!: A LONGTOOTH! HE SMELLS THE BUCK'S BLOOD!
KEEP CUTTING THE STRANGLEWEED! I'LL STOP HIS CHARGE!
NIGHTFALL!

SSSTHOKK
EEYOWRR!
HURRY! HE'S WOUNDED --READY TO CHARGE AGAIN!
IN TIMMORN'S NAME BE CAREFUL!
KROOAR!
THIS SHOT HAS TO KILL!
WHUNG!


WHIZZZ!
NO! SHE MISSED! THE LONGTOOTH'S COMING!
YOU FOOL CUBS! RUN!
BUT REDMARK'S RESPONSE IS TO GRAB HIS SPEAR--
--AND BRACE IT AGAINST THE GROUND.
NO! I WON'T FAIL YOU AGAIN!
AAAARRR!
REDMARK! GET OUT OF HIS WAY! HIGH ONES! TOO LATE!
SCREECH!
UNH!

AAAA!
REDMARK! BEARCLAW!
:SOB: :SOB:
MY CHIEF! OH, HIGH ONES, I'M SORRY! IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME!
...IDIOT...!
THE OTHER WOLFRIDERS QUICKLY ARRIVE TO HELP REDMARK AND NIGHTFALL CARRY THEIR INJURED CHIEF TO THE FATHER TREE. NEARLY TWO GREATER MOONS WAX AND WANE WHILE BEARCLAW HEALS. BUT FINALLY...
MAYBE YOUR POWERS HAVEN'T SHOWN YET, CUB, BUT YOU STOOD YOUR GROUND AGAINST A PAIN-CRAZED CAT AND SAVED US BOTH! THAT'S THE RAREST KIND OF MAGIC. FROM NOW ON REDMARK, THE TRACKER, WILL BE CALLED REDLANCE, THE LONGTOOTH KILLER!
AND PERHAPS, SOMEDAY... REDLANCE, THE TREE SHAPER!

Follow the adventures of the elves in ELFQUEST -- every month in EPIC Comics!

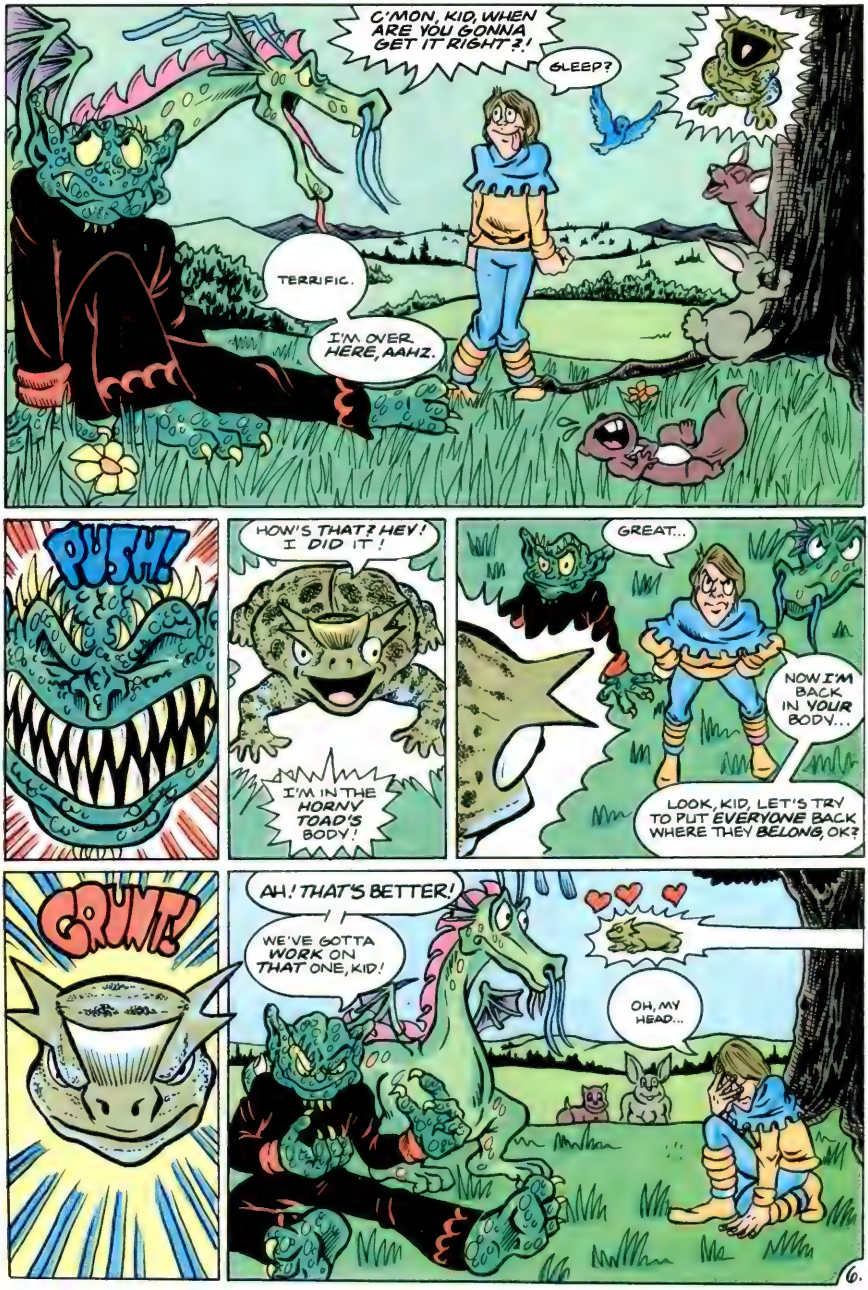
Myth Adventures!
OUR DEMON
AAHZ
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, ISN'T IT, AAHZ?
SURE, KID. SURE...
...LISTEN, I THINK THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO PRACTICE SOME MAGICK...
...AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT LIABLE TO HURT MUCH OUT HERE.
OUR DRAGON
GLEEP
OUR HERO?
SKEEVE
FEDERAL EXPRESS
Mything LESSUNS!
NATURE ISN'T PARTICULARLY FRAGILE...
1.

AW, AAHZ, I DON'T WANT TO... CAN'T WE JUST TAKE ONE DAY OFF... PLEASE?!...
NO
OH YEAH? WELL WHAT IF I REFUSE?
KID, LET ME EXPLAIN THE FACTS OF LIFE TO YOU— THE FACT IS THAT YOU'RE THE APPRENTICE AND I'M THE MASTER...
...AND THAT WHEN YOUR FORMER MASTER, GARKIN, BROUGHT ME INTO THIS DIMENSION...
...HE STRIPPED ME OF MY POWERS AS A PRACTICAL JOKE.
YEAH, I KNOW.
SO NOW YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WITH ANY POWERS AT ALL...
AND YOU'RE GONNA LEARN HOW TO USE THOSE POWERS
...GOT IT?
YEAH, SURE.
GLEEP?
GOOD! THEN LET'S GET TO WORK!

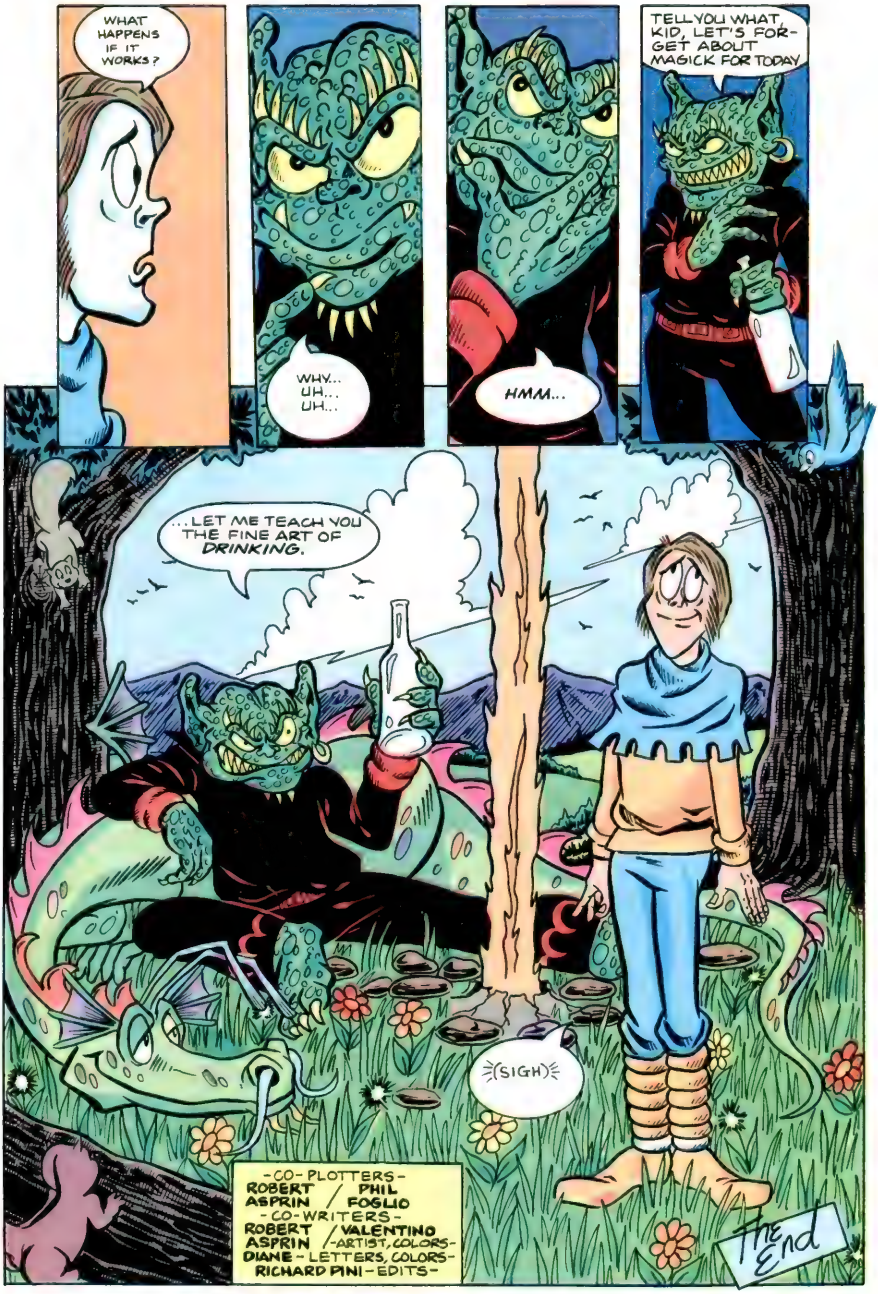
ALL RIGHT THEN, APPRENTICE, THE FIRST LESSON WILL BE A SPELL OF EXTREME TACTICAL IMPORTANCE...
TERRIFIC.
YOU'RE GOING TO CONJURE UP A LIFE FORM!
A LIFE FORM, HUH?
YEAH, A DRAGON!
POOF
ANOTHER DRAGON?
YEAH, HOPEFULLY BETTER THAN THE ONE YOU'VE GOT!
"FORM THE IMAGE OF A DRAGON IN YOUR MIND..."
"CONCENTRATE..."
"...NOW...PUSH.....PUSH..."

FLOOP!
A HORNY TOAD!!
THAT'S HORNED TOAD, AAHZ.
HAHAHAHAHAHAH
WELL, AT LEAST IT'S A REPTILE...
YOU CAN STOP LAUGHING NOW, AAHZ...
YIPES!
A FIRE-BREATHING HORNY TOAD!
FWOOSH!
FWOOSH!
IT MAY NOT BE A DRAGON, BUT IT IS KINDA CUTE.
AND I THOUGHT GLEEP HAD A BAD BREATH PROBLEM.

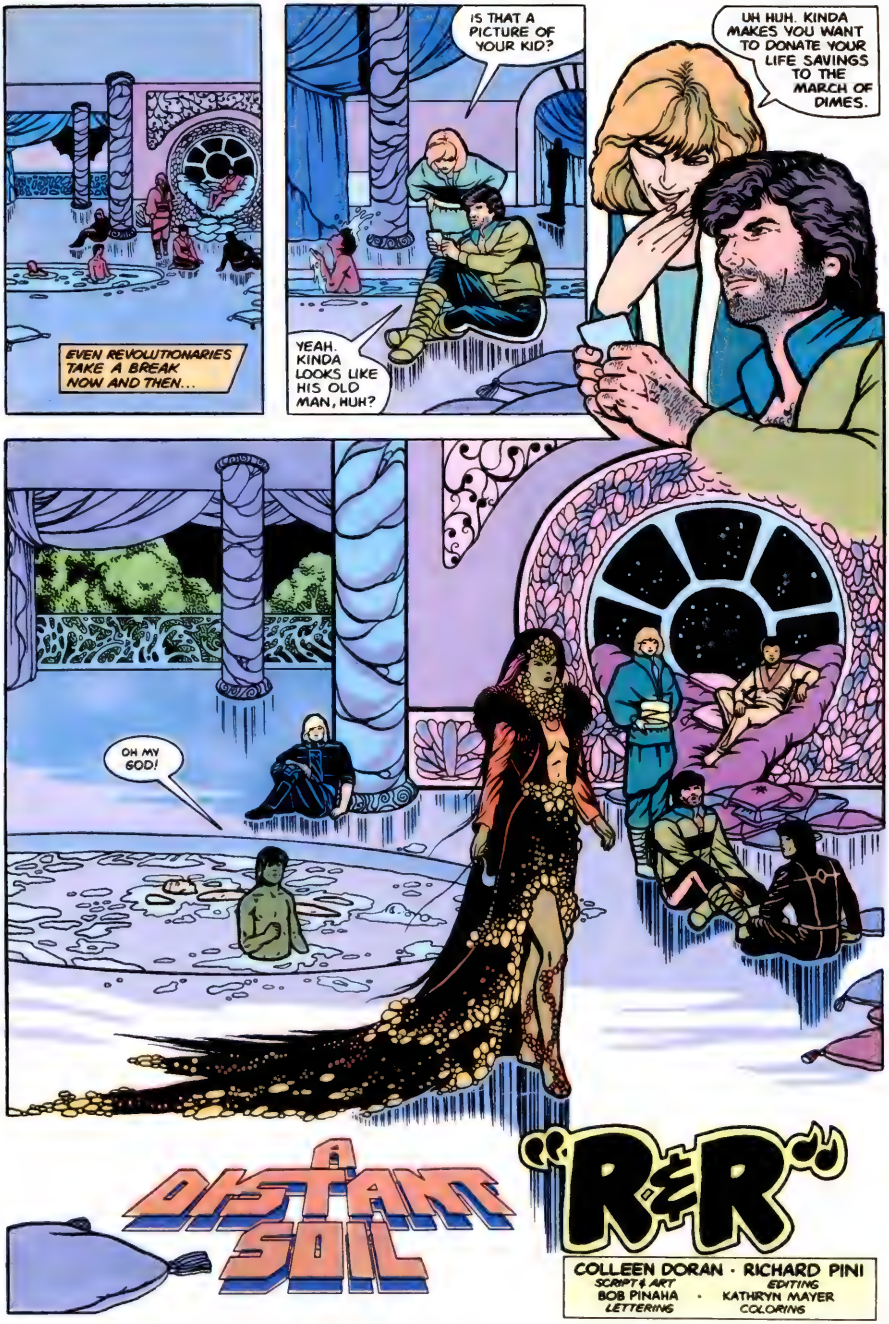
GLEEP?
ALL RIGHT, KID, QUICK, BEFORE HE COMES UP WITH ANY MORE TRICKS, I WANT YOU TO TRY A SIMPLE MIND TRANSFERENCE SPELL.
GET SERIOUS, AAHZ! YOU WANT ME TO PUT MY MIND IN THAT HORNED TOAD'S BODY!?!
DO IT!
HARRUMPH! OK, I'LL TRY...
GRUNT!
I'M WAITING, SKEEVE, WHEN ARE YOU GONNA...
AAHZ? YOU'RE IN MY BODY..
GLEEP?
AND GLEEP'S IN YOURS!
-SIGH-
ALL RIGHT, APPRENTICE, TRY IT AGAIN—
UNGH!
5.


C'MON, KID, WHEN ARE YOU GONNA GET IT RIGHT?!
GLEEP?
TERRIFIC.
I'M OVER HERE, AAHZ.
PUSH!
HOW'S THAT? HEY! I DID IT!
I'M IN THE HORNY TOAD'S BODY!
GREAT...
NOW I'M BACK IN YOUR BODY...
LOOK, KID, LET'S TRY TO PUT EVERYONE BACK WHERE THEY BELONG, OK?
GRUNT!
AH! THAT'S BETTER!
WE'VE GOTTA WORK ON THAT ONE, KID!
OH, MY HEAD...

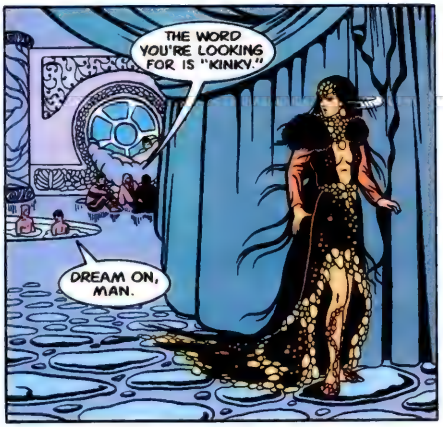
"BETTER GET RID OF THE TOAD, KID"
WHAP!
I THINK IT'S BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.
ALL RIGHT, KID, THE NEXT LESSON IS THE MOST IMPORT-ANT SPELL IN A WIZARD'S ARSENAL
SLURP!
(SIGH) WHAT IS IT, AAHZ?
CUT IT OUT, GLEEP!
THE ...ARMAGEDDON SPELL!
SOUNDS GREAT.
UM, ER, WHAT DOES THIS SPELL DO, EXACTLY?
WHAT DOES IT DO?
WHY, NOTHING LESS THAN...
THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE...
THE DEST..?..
UH...
AAHZ?
FOUND IT!
AAHZ?!
WHAT?



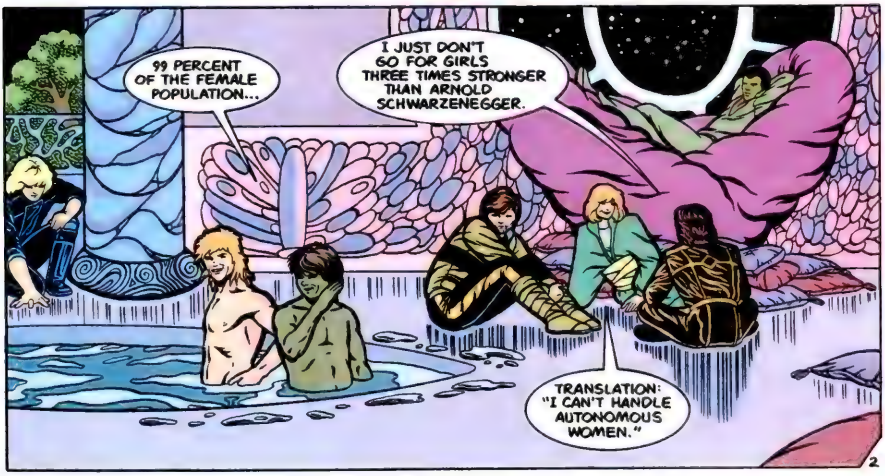
Follow the misadventures of Aahz & Skeeve - in MYTHADVENTURES!


EVEN REVOLUTIONARIES TAKE A BREAK NOW AND THEN...
IS THAT A PICTURE OF YOUR KID?
YEAH. KINDA LOOKS LIKE HIS OLD MAN, HUH?
UH HUH. KINDA MAKES YOU WANT TO DONATE YOUR LIFE SAVINGS TO THE MARCH OF DIMES.
OH MY GOD!
A DISTANT SOIL
"R&R"
COLLEEN DORAN · RICHARD PINI
SCRIPT & ART · EDITING
BOB PINAHA · KATHRYN MAYER
LETTERING · COLORING

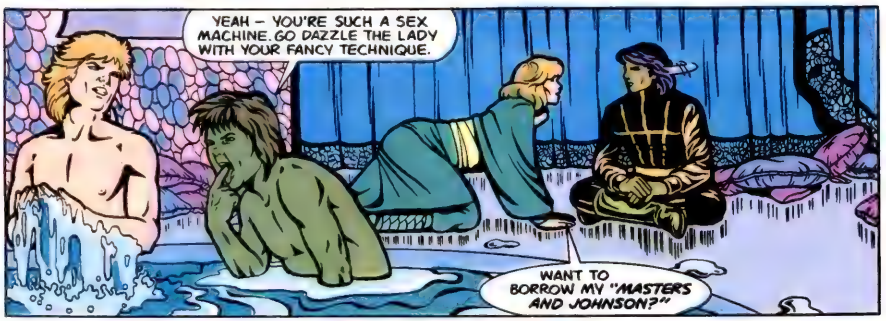
I THINK I'M IN LUST.
YOU KNOW, WHEN WE GET OUT OF HERE I'D LIKE TO GET HER INTO A SECLUDED CORNER, COVER HER WITH CHOCOLATE SYRUP, AND LICK IT ALL OFF IN LITTLE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES...
THAT'S — WEIRD!


THE WORD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS "KINKY."
DREAM ON, MAN.

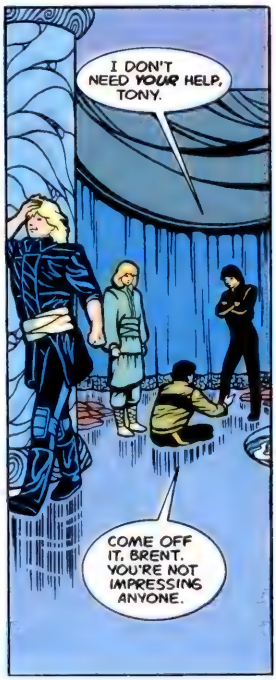
WHAT YOU WANT WITH HER ANYWAY, DUN? SHE IS ONE COLD BITCH.
WHICH IS BRENT'S GENERIC TERM FOR ANY WOMAN WHO DOESN'T SUCCUMB TO THE FABLED DONEWITZ CHARM.

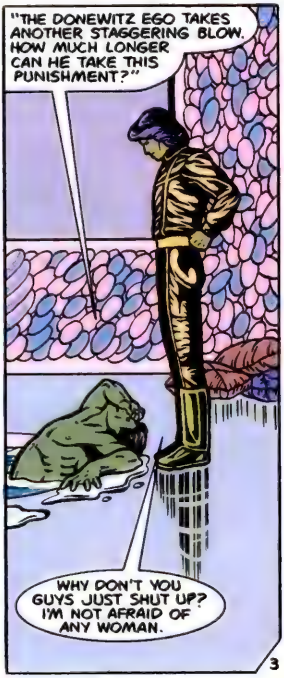

99 PERCENT OF THE FEMALE POPULATION...
I JUST DON'T GO FOR GIRLS THREE TIMES STRONGER THAN ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER.
TRANSLATION: "I CAN'T HANDLE AUTONOMOUS WOMEN."

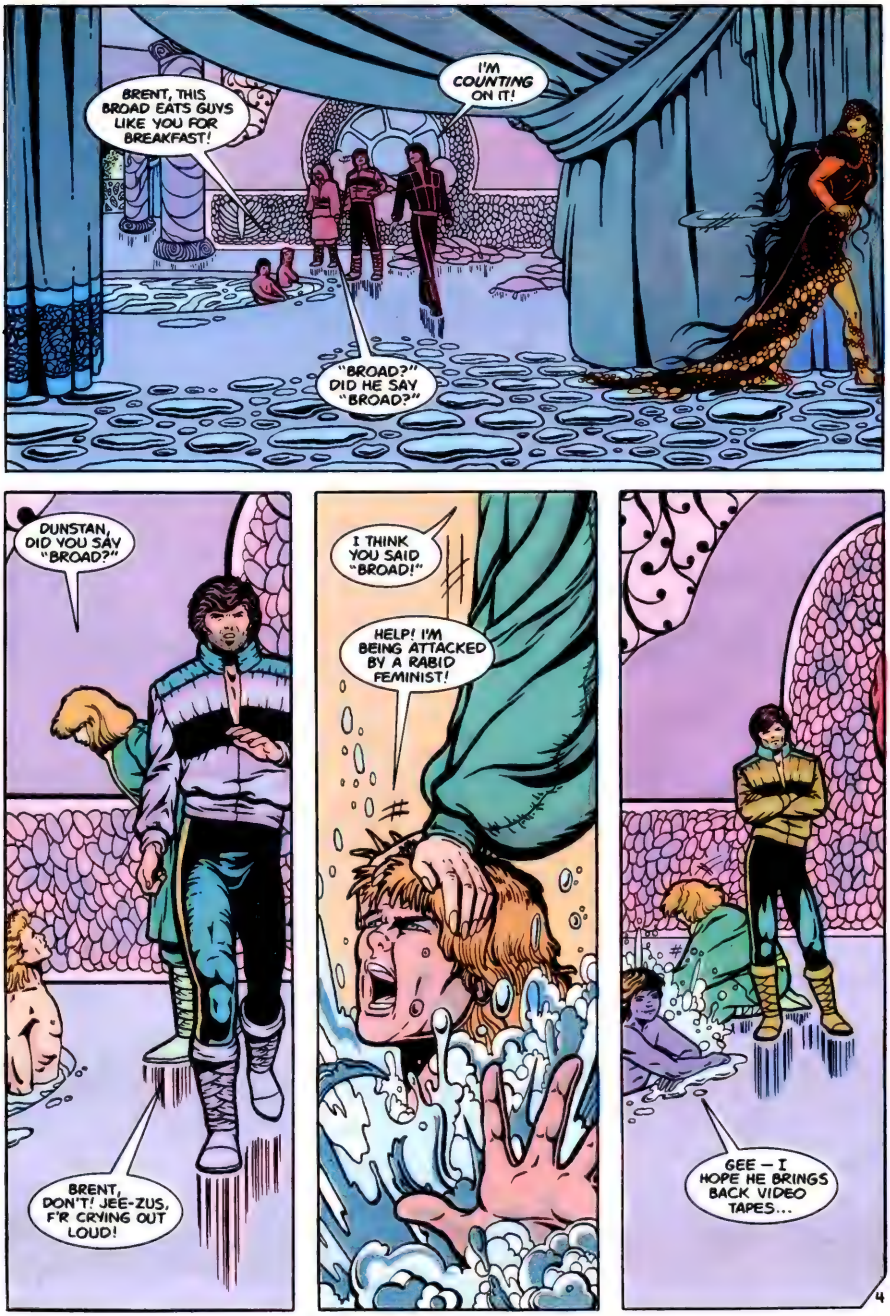
HEY, I NEVER SAID THAT.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO FOR IT, STUD?

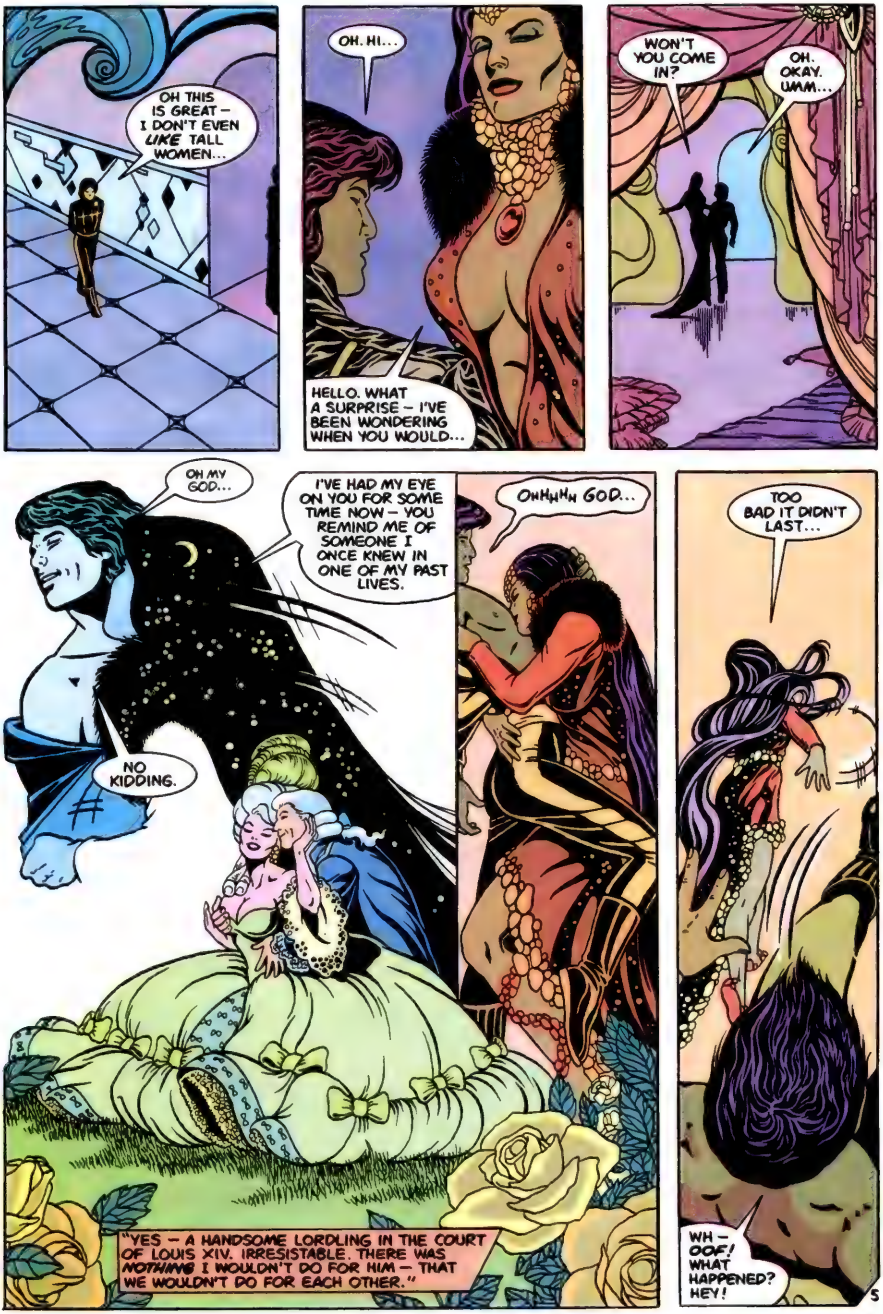

YEAH – YOU'RE SUCH A SEX MACHINE. GO DAZZLE THE LADY WITH YOUR FANCY TECHNIQUE.
WANT TO BORROW MY "MASTERS AND JOHNSON?"

COME ON, EVERYBODY, LEAVE HIM ALONE...
UH OH! BAD VIBES! DIVE! DIVE!

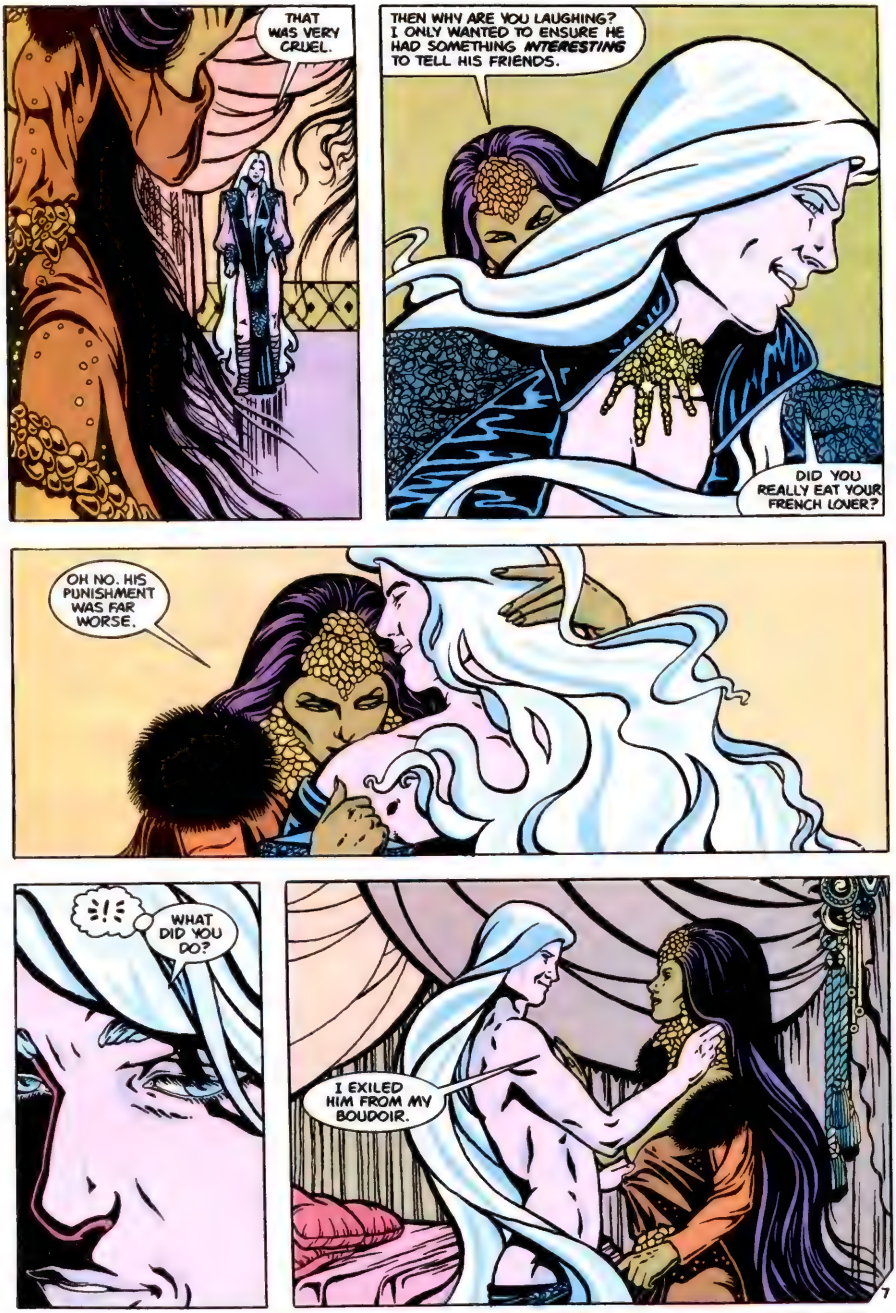

I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP, TONY.
COME OFF IT, BRENT. YOU'RE NOT IMPRESSING ANYONE.

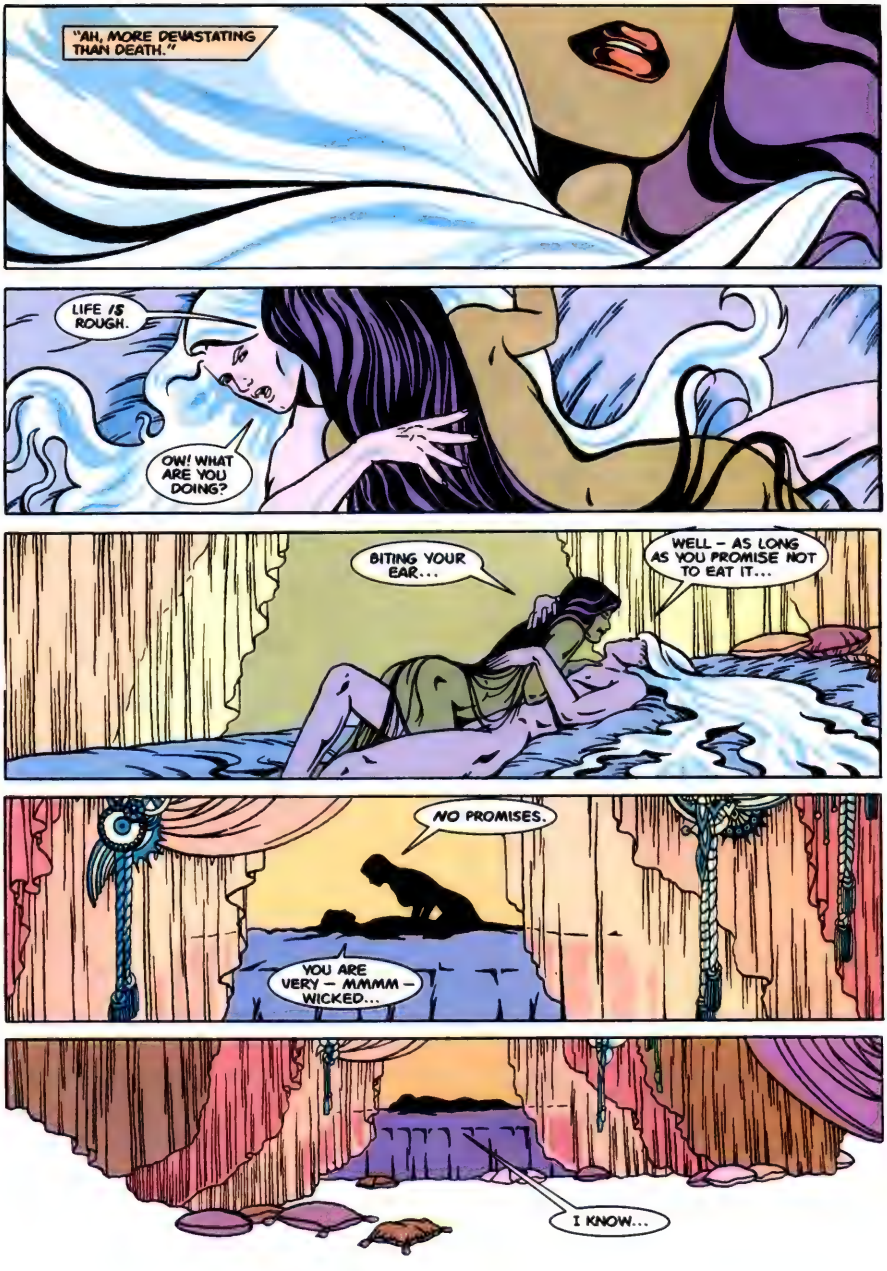

"THE DONEWITZ EGO TAKES ANOTHER STAGGERING BLOW. HOW MUCH LONGER CAN HE TAKE THIS PUNISHMENT?"
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST SHUT UP? I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANY WOMAN.

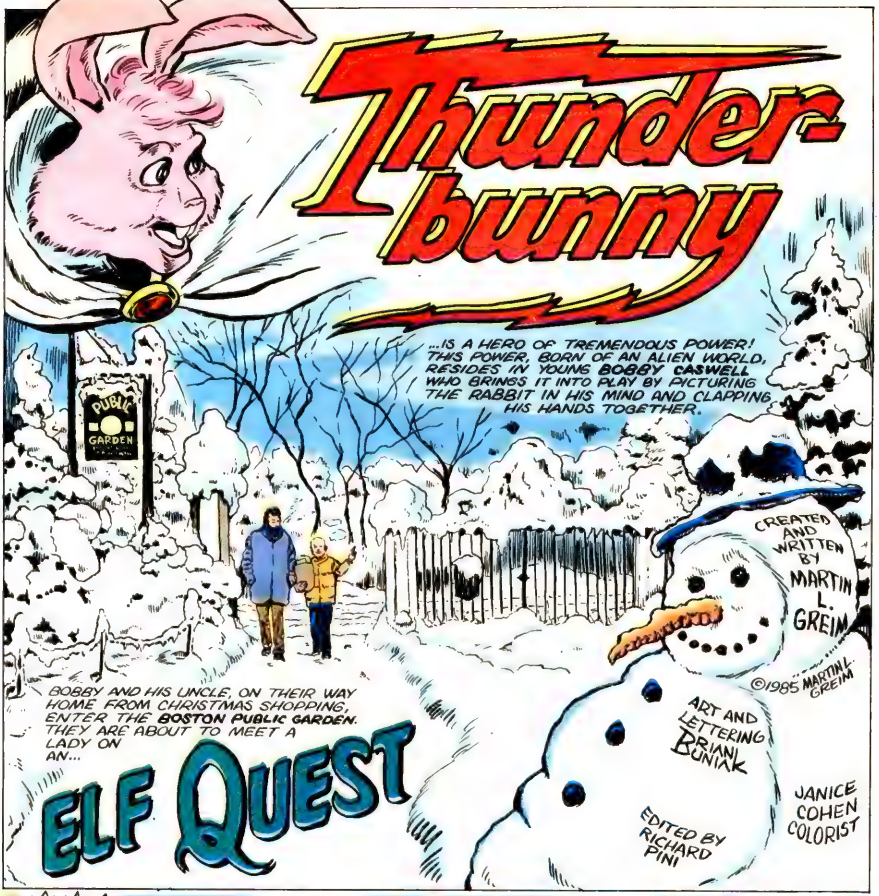

BRENT, THIS BROAD EATS GUYS LIKE YOU FOR BREAKFAST!
I'M COUNTING ON IT!
"BROAD?" DID HE SAY "BROAD?"
DUNSTAN, DID YOU SAY "BROAD?"
BRENT, DON'T! JEE-ZUS, I'R CRYING OUT LOUD!
I THINK YOU SAID "BROAD!"
HELP! I'M BEING ATTACKED BY A RABID FEMINIST!
GEE — I HOPE HE BRINGS BACK VIDEO TAPES...

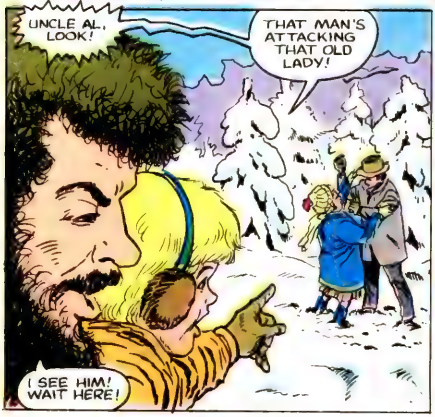

OH THIS IS GREAT – I DON'T EVEN LIKE TALL WOMEN...
OH. HI...
HELLO. WHAT A SURPRISE – I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHEN YOU WOULD...
WON'T YOU COME IN?
OH. OKAY. UMM...
OH MY GOD...
I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOU FOR SOME TIME NOW – YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE I ONCE KNEW IN ONE OF MY PAST LIVES.
NO KIDDING.
OHHWHH GOD..
TOO BAD IT DIDN'T LAST...
WH – OOF! WHAT HAPPENED? HEY!
"YES – A HANDSOME LORDLING IN THE COURT OF LOUIS XIV. IRRESISTABLE. THERE WAS NOTHING I WOULDN'T DO FOR HIM – THAT WE WOULDN'T DO FOR EACH OTHER."

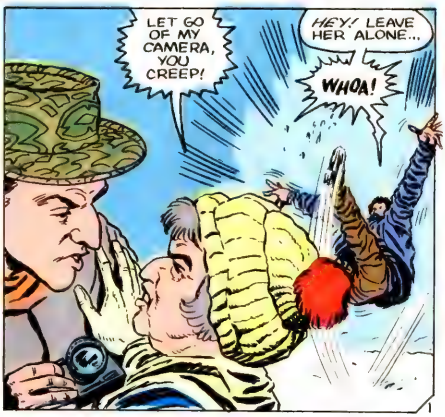
"IT'S RATHER SAD. I WAS WALKING THROUGH THE GARDEN ONE DAY, AND THERE HE WAS – IN THE ARMS OF..."
"...ANOTHER MAN!"
OH – AND I REMIND YOU OF THIS GUY?
YES. TRAGIC.
WELL, UH, I HOPE THIS DOESN'T... I MEAN... WELL, WHAT DID YOU DO?
I ATE HIM.
!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I GOTTA – I HAVE TO GO – TO THE BATHROOM – ANYWHERE!


THAT WAS VERY CRUEL.
THEN WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING? I ONLY WANTED TO ENSURE HE HAD SOMETHING *INTERESTING* TO TELL HIS FRIENDS.
DID YOU REALLY EAT YOUR FRENCH LOVER?
OH NO. HIS PUNISHMENT WAS FAR WORSE.
?!
WHAT DID YOU DO?
I EXILED HIM FROM MY BOUDOIR.

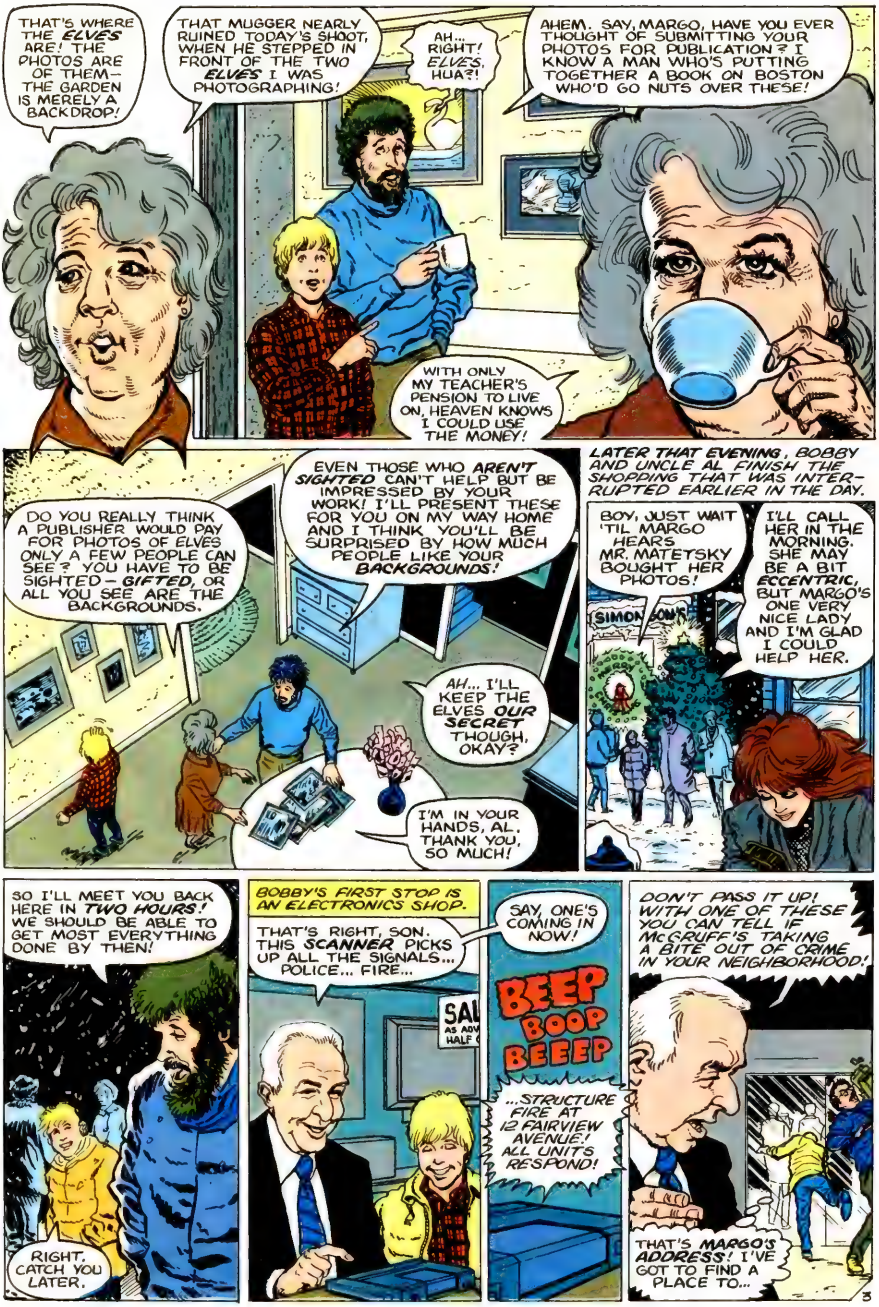

"AH, MORE DEVASTATING THAN DEATH."
LIFE IS ROUGH.
OW! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BITING YOUR EAR...
WELL - AS LONG AS YOU PROMISE NOT TO EAT IT...
NO PROMISES.
YOU ARE VERY - MMMM - WICKED...
I KNOW...


Thunder-bunny
...IS A HERO OF TREMENDOUS POWER! THIS POWER, BORN OF AN ALIEN WORLD, RESIDES IN YOUNG BOBBY CASWELL WHO BRINGS IT INTO PLAY BY PICTURING THE RABBIT IN HIS MIND AND CLAPPING HIS HANDS TOGETHER.
PUBLIC GARDEN
CREATED AND WRITTEN BY MARTIN L. GREIM
©1985 MARTIN L. GREIM
BOBBY AND HIS UNCLE, ON THEIR WAY HOME FROM CHRISTMAS SHOPPING, ENTER THE BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN. THEY ARE ABOUT TO MEET A LADY ON AN...
ELF QUEST
ART AND LETTERING BRIAN BUNIAK
EDITED BY RICHARD PINI
JANICE COHEN COLORIST


UNCLE AL, LOOK!
THAT MAN'S ATTACKING THAT OLD LADY!
I SEE HIM! WAIT HERE!


LET GO OF MY CAMERA, YOU CREEP!
HEY! LEAVE HER ALONE...
WHOA!

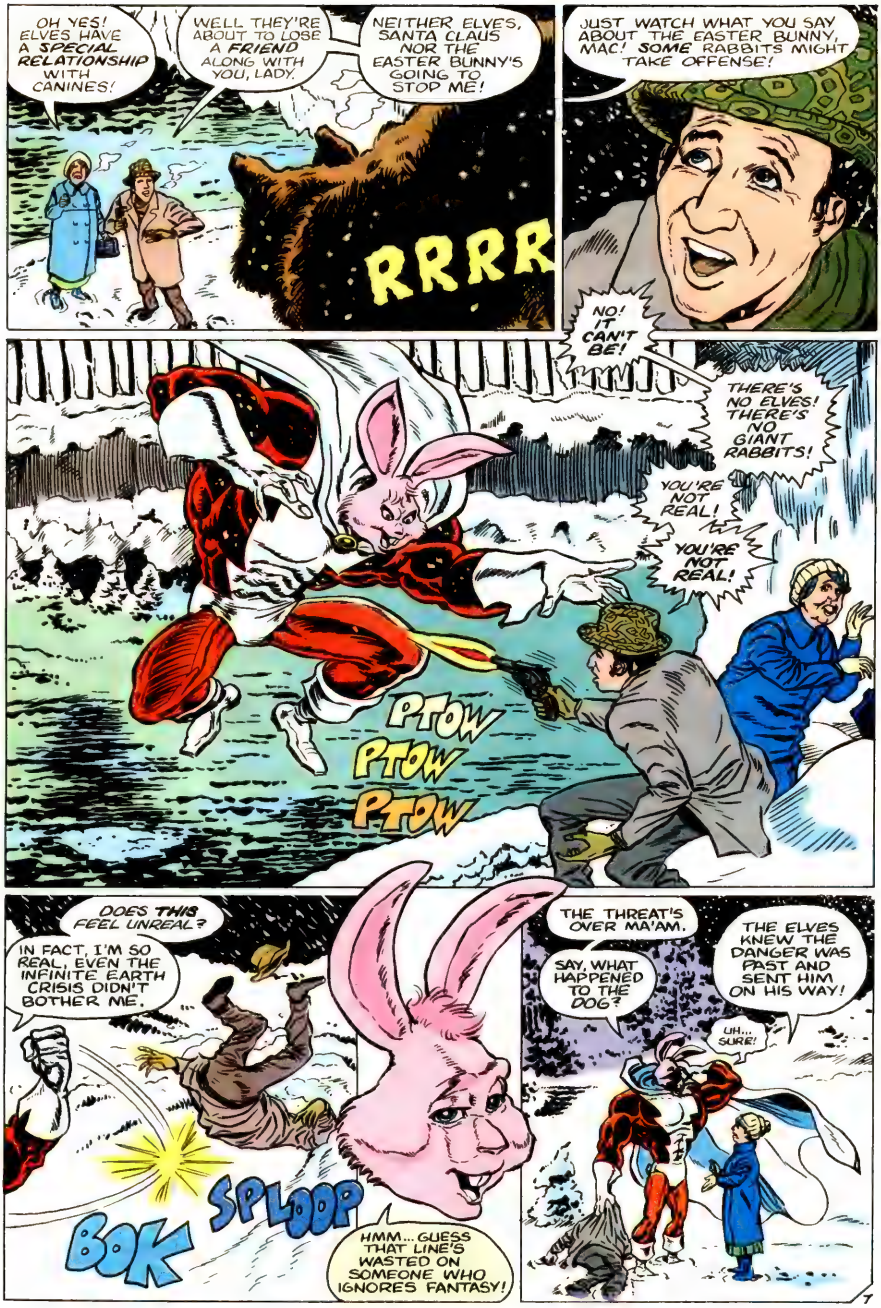
I BELIEVE IN GIVING AT CHRISTMAS, BUT NOT MY CAMERA! INSTEAD...
WOUMP
..TRY SOME MACE, ACE!
YIIARRGHHHHH!
FFFSSST
YOU WANT TO PLAY? YOU'VE GOT TO PAY!
BREE-E
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, UNCLE AL?
MY DIGNITY'S DESTROYED, BUT I'M OKAY. HOW ARE YOU, MA'AM?
NEVER BETTER! AND JUST WHO MIGHT MY TWO SAVIORS BE?!
EEEE
CLICK
I'M AL CASWELL AND THIS IS MY NEPHEW, BOBBY. YOU'VE HAD A ROUGH TIME - CAN WE GIVE YOU A LIFT HOME?
YOU HAD THE ROUGHER PART OF IT, AL. I'LL ACCEPT THE RIDE IF YOU'LL LET ME MAKE YOU A CUP OF TEA. IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.
MY NAME'S MARGO - MARGO COLE!
A SHORT TIME LATER AT MARGO'S HOME...
YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO USE A CAMERA, MARGO.
THESE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE BEAUTIFUL!
IS THERE ANY SPECIAL REASON WHY THEY'RE ALL OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN?!
WHY YES, BOBBY!

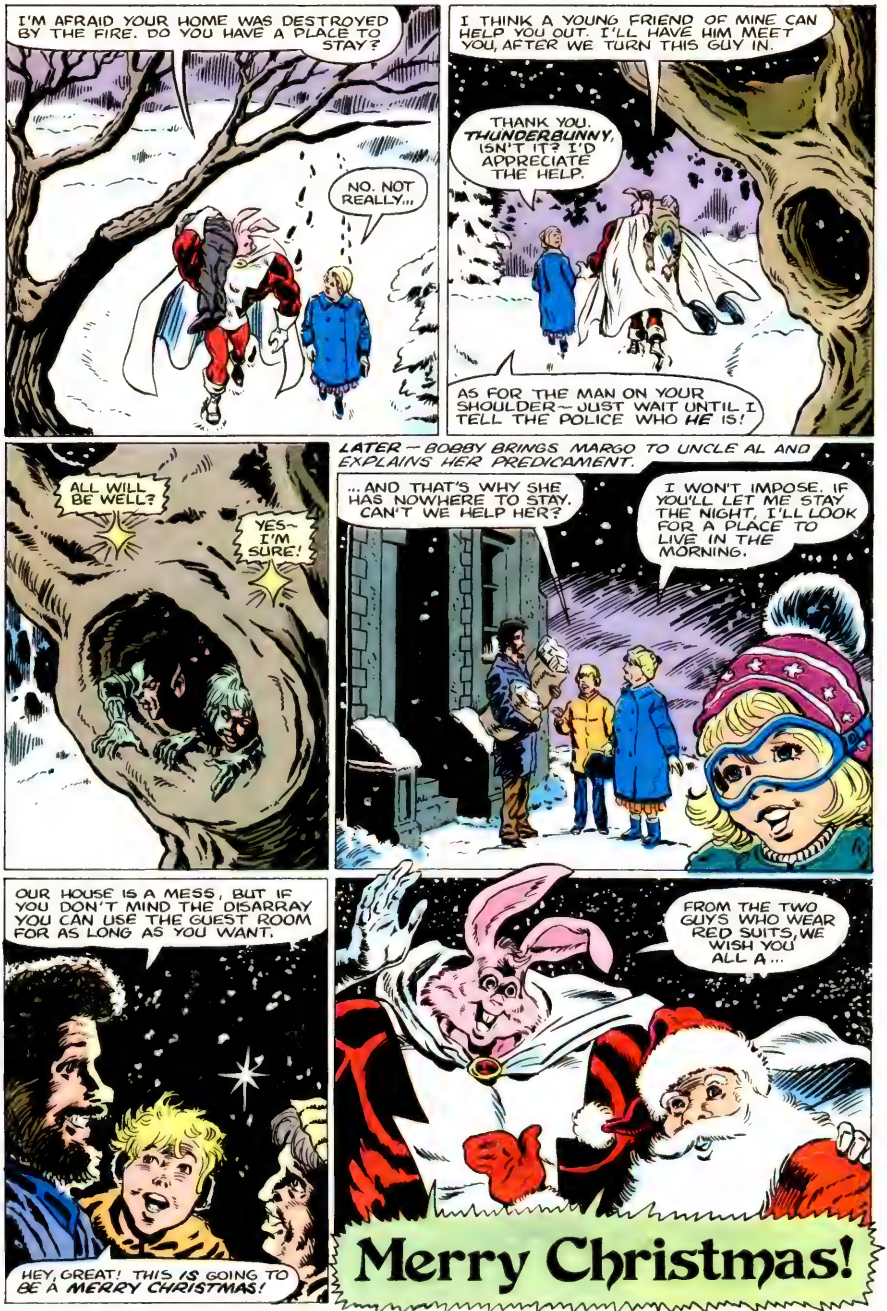

THAT'S WHERE THE ELVES ARE! THE PHOTOS ARE OF THEM— THE GARDEN IS MERELY A BACKDROP!
THAT MUGGER NEARLY RUINED TODAY'S SHOOT, WHEN HE STEPPED IN FRONT OF THE TWO ELVES I WAS PHOTOGRAPHING!
AH... RIGHT! ELVES, HUH?!
AHEM. SAY, MARGO, HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF SUBMITTING YOUR PHOTOS FOR PUBLICATION? I KNOW A MAN WHO'S PUTTING TOGETHER A BOOK ON BOSTON WHO'D GO NUTS OVER THESE!
WITH ONLY MY TEACHER'S PENSION TO LIVE ON, HEAVEN KNOWS I COULD USE THE MONEY!
DO YOU REALLY THINK A PUBLISHER WOULD PAY FOR PHOTOS OF ELVES ONLY A FEW PEOPLE CAN SEE? YOU HAVE TO BE SIGHTED — GIFTED, OR ALL YOU SEE ARE THE BACKGROUNDS.
EVEN THOSE WHO AREN'T SIGHTED CAN'T HELP BUT BE IMPRESSED BY YOUR WORK! I'LL PRESENT THESE FOR YOU ON MY WAY HOME AND I THINK YOU'LL BE SURPRISED BY HOW MUCH PEOPLE LIKE YOUR BACKGROUNDS!
AH... I'LL KEEP THE ELVES OUR SECRET THOUGH, OKAY?
I'M IN YOUR HANDS, AL. THANK YOU, SO MUCH!
LATER THAT EVENING, BOBBY AND UNCLE AL FINISH THE SHOPPING THAT WAS INTERRUPTED EARLIER IN THE DAY.
BOY, JUST WAIT 'TIL MARGO HEARS MR. MATETSKY BOUGHT HER PHOTOS!
I'LL CALL HER IN THE MORNING. SHE MAY BE A BIT ECCENTRIC, BUT MARGO'S ONE VERY NICE LADY AND I'M GLAD I COULD HELP HER.
SIMON
SO I'LL MEET YOU BACK HERE IN TWO HOURS! WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET MOST EVERYTHING DONE BY THEN!
RIGHT. CATCH YOU LATER.
BOBBY'S FIRST STOP IS AN ELECTRONICS SHOP.
THAT'S RIGHT, SON. THIS SCANNER PICKS UP ALL THE SIGNALS... POLICE... FIRE...
SAY, ONE'S COMING IN NOW!
BEEP BOOP BEEEP
...STRUCTURE FIRE AT 12 FAIRVIEW AVENUE! ALL UNITS RESPOND!
DON'T PASS IT UP! WITH ONE OF THESE YOU CAN TELL IF McGRUFF'S TAKING A BITE OUT OF CRIME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
THAT'S MARGO'S ADDRESS! I'VE GOT TO FIND A PLACE TO...

IN AN ALLEY, A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE STORE.
...EFFECT THE CHANGE!
FA-TOOM
SCANT SECONDS LATER THUNDERBUNNY ARRIVES AND FINDS THE BUILDING ENGULFED IN FLAMES.
NO TIME TO BE DISCREET! I'LL ENTER THROUGH THE LIVING ROOM WINDOW!
MARGO! MARGO, WHERE ARE YOU?
WHOA BOY, THIS PLACE IS A TINDERBOX!
HIS OFFER ACCEPTED, THUNDERBUNNY FLIES ALOFT TO EXTINGUISH THE BLAZE.
I'M GLAD I WANTED TO GROW UP TO BE A SUPER HERO INSTEAD OF A FIREMAN!
THIS WORK IS DANGEROUS!
A RABBIT SPARK? *
I CHECKED THE WHOLE HOUSE AND THERE'S NOBODY INSIDE! HOW CAN I HELP?
* A PERSON WHO WATCHES FIRE DEPARTMENTS BATTLE FIRES.

THANKS, THUNDERBUNNY! EVEN THOUGH WE COULDN'T SAVE THE HOUSE, YOUR AERIAL HOSE WORK KEPT THE FLAMES FROM SPREADING TO THE OTHER DWELLINGS!
I FEEL THE OCCUPANT MAY BE IN DANGER! I WISH I KNEW HOW TO LOCATE HER!
THIS FIRE WAS A TORCH JOB! THAT'S WHY IT SPREAD SO FAST!
I CAN TELL YOU HOW TO FIND MARGO, MR. RABBIT!
YOU CAN? I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT!
SHE'S OUT DRIVING! HER RED JEEP IS GONE! IT HAS A SPECIAL LICENCE PLATE — E-L-F!
I BET YOU CAN FIND IT EASY!
EASY? NO!
BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU COULD HAVE SAVED ME THE BOTHER OF BURNING YOUR PLACE, IF YOU'D TOLD ME THE FILM YOU SHOT TODAY WAS HERE!
6 HOUR DEVELOPING
LOADING ZONE
THEN YOU'D HAVE USED THAT GUN IN YOUR POCKET ALL THE SOONER! YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ELVES! WHY DO YOU WANT THESE PICTURES?
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE GUN AND THE ELVES, LADY. I WANT THAT FILM BECAUSE I'M IN ONE OF YOUR SHOTS.
NOW DRIVE TO THE PUBLIC GARDEN.
MY NAME IS ED HARLAN AND SIX YEARS AGO I EMBEZZLED A HUNDRED THOUSAND FROM THE SWIEN COMPANY. TO COVER MY TRACKS, FROM BOTH THE POLICE AND SWIEN, I FAKED MY DEATH. I RETURNED TODAY TO MOVE THE MONEY FROM A HOLDING ACCOUNT AND YOU TOOK MY PICTURE!
I CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON SOMEONE SEEING THAT PHOTO AND LEARNING I'M ALIVE, SO IT — AND YOU — MUST BE DISPOSED OF.

MAYBE I WAS TOO CONFIDENT THINKING I COULD FIND MARGO'S JEEP. THERE'S NEARLY DOUBLE THE CARS, DUE TO ALL THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS.
ALL RIGHT! I'M GETTING MY CHRISTMAS PRESENT EARLY!
THERE'S HER JEEP!
ELF
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
PEOPLE THINK YOU'RE NUTS, BECAUSE OF ALL THAT ELF TALK, SO THEY'LL THINK YOU FELL IN THE WATER AND DROWNED WHILE YOU WERE HERE LOOKING FOR THEM!
YOU'RE WRONG, MR. HARLAN! PEOPLE WILL THINK IT'S MURDER! AND I WOULDN'T BE SO READY TO DISCOUNT ELVES, IF I WERE YOU!
SOMETIMES THINGS THOUGHT TO BE FANTASY —AREN'T!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY PICTURE!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE FOUGHT ME WHEN I TRIED TO TAKE YOUR CAMERA!
AND YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED IN ELVES!
GRROWLLL
GRRRAARR
WHAT THE DEVIL?!
A DOG!

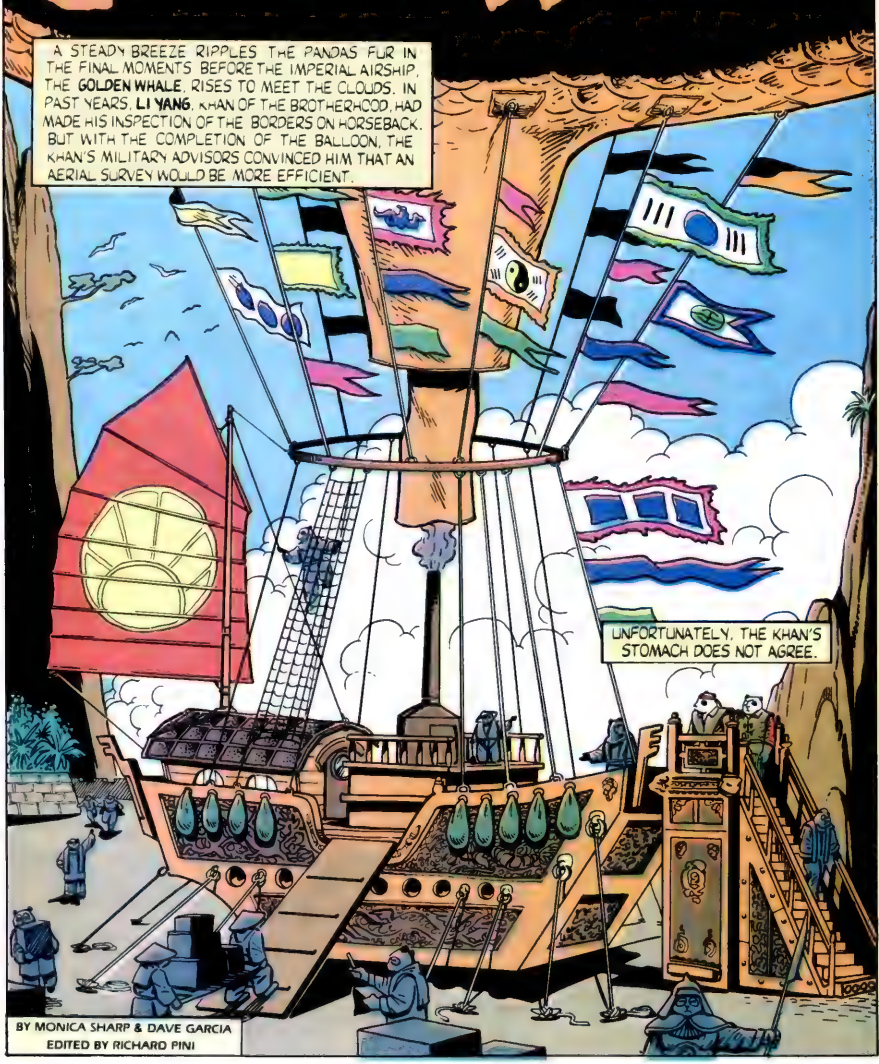

OH YES! ELVES HAVE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CANINES!
WELL THEY'RE ABOUT TO LOSE A FRIEND ALONG WITH YOU, LADY.
NEITHER ELVES, SANTA CLAUS NOR THE EASTER BUNNY'S GOING TO STOP ME!
RRRR
JUST WATCH WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT THE EASTER BUNNY, MAC! SOME RABBITS MIGHT TAKE OFFENSE!
NO! IT CAN'T BE!
THERE'S NO ELVES! THERE'S NO GIANT RABBITS!
YOU'RE NOT REAL!
YOU'RE NOT REAL!
PTOW PTOW PTOW
DOES THIS FEEL UNREAL?
IN FACT, I'M SO REAL, EVEN THE INFINITE EARTH CRISIS DIDN'T BOTHER ME.
BOK
SPLOOP
HMM... GUESS THAT LINE'S WASTED ON SOMEONE WHO IGNORES FANTASY!
THE THREAT'S OVER MA'AM.
SAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DOG?
THE ELVES KNEW THE DANGER WAS PAST AND SENT HIM ON HIS WAY!
UH... SURE!


I'M AFRAID YOUR HOME WAS DESTROYED BY THE FIRE. DO YOU HAVE A PLACE TO STAY?
NO. NOT REALLY...
I THINK A YOUNG FRIEND OF MINE CAN HELP YOU OUT. I'LL HAVE HIM MEET YOU, AFTER WE TURN THIS GUY IN.
THANK YOU, THUNDERBUNNY, ISN'T IT? I'D APPRECIATE THE HELP.
AS FOR THE MAN ON YOUR SHOULDER—JUST WAIT UNTIL I TELL THE POLICE WHO HE IS!
ALL WILL BE WELL?
YES— I'M SURE!
LATER—BOBBY BRINGS MARGO TO UNCLE AL AND EXPLAINS HER PREDICAMENT.
...AND THAT'S WHY SHE HAS NOWHERE TO STAY. CAN'T WE HELP HER?
I WON'T IMPOSE. IF YOU'LL LET ME STAY THE NIGHT, I'LL LOOK FOR A PLACE TO LIVE IN THE MORNING.
OUR HOUSE IS A MESS, BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND THE DISARRAY YOU CAN USE THE GUEST ROOM FOR AS LONG AS YOU WANT.
HEY, GREAT! THIS IS GOING TO BE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!
FROM THE TWO GUYS WHO WEAR RED SUITS, WE WISH YOU ALL A...
Merry Christmas!

Follow the adventures of Thunderbunny - in THUNDERBUNNY!

Panda Khan, Tales of the Brotherhood

IN THE BELLY OF THE GOLDEN WHALE


A STEADY BREEZE RIPPLES THE PANDAS FUR IN THE FINAL MOMENTS BEFORE THE IMPERIAL AIRSHIP, THE GOLDEN WHALE, RISES TO MEET THE CLOUDS. IN PAST YEARS, LI YANG, KHAN OF THE BROTHERHOOD, HAD MADE HIS INSPECTION OF THE BORDERS ON HORSEBACK. BUT WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE BALLOON, THE KHAN'S MILITARY ADVISORS CONVINCED HIM THAT AN AERIAL SURVEY WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE KHAN'S STOMACH DOES NOT AGREE.

BY MONICA SHARP & DAVE GARCIA
EDITED BY RICHARD PINI

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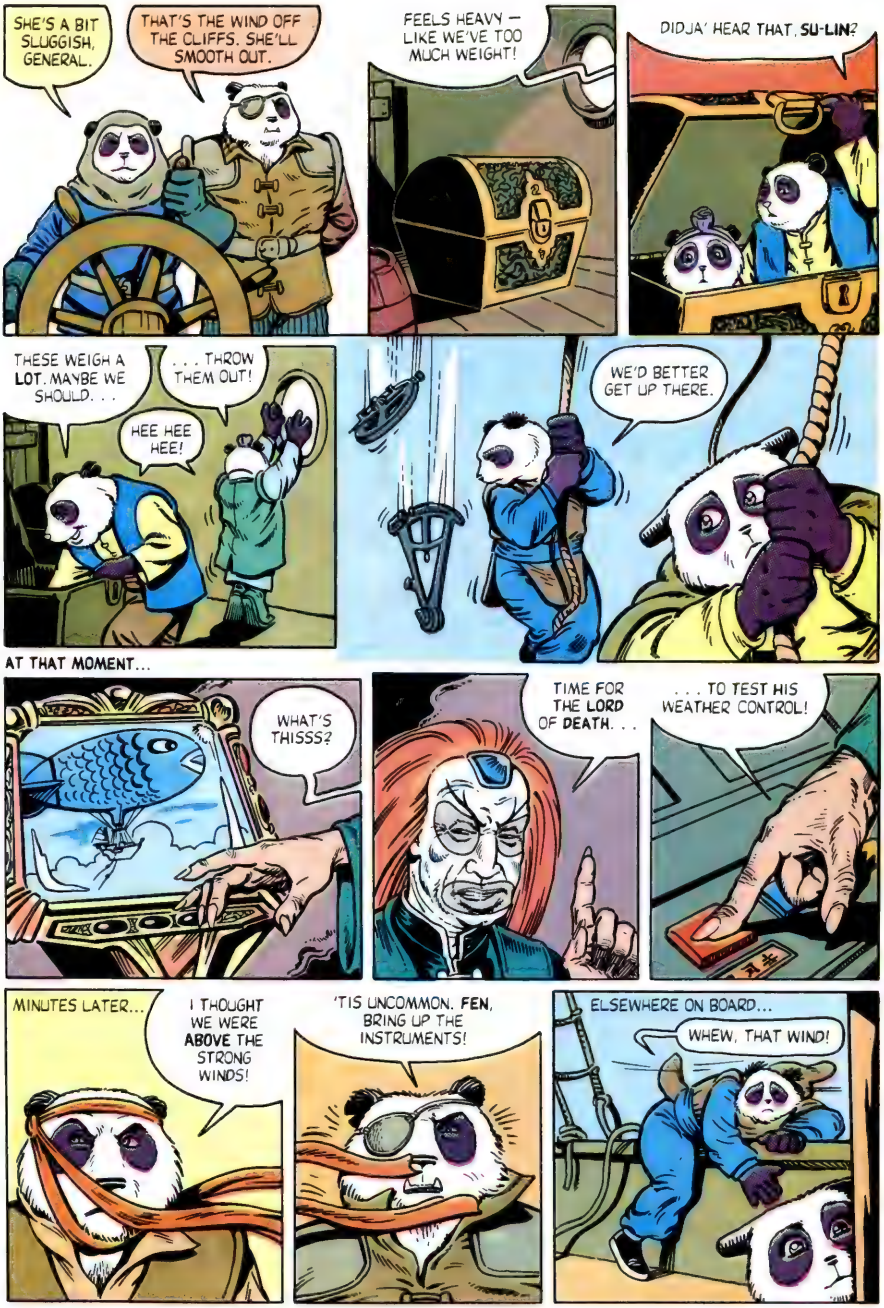
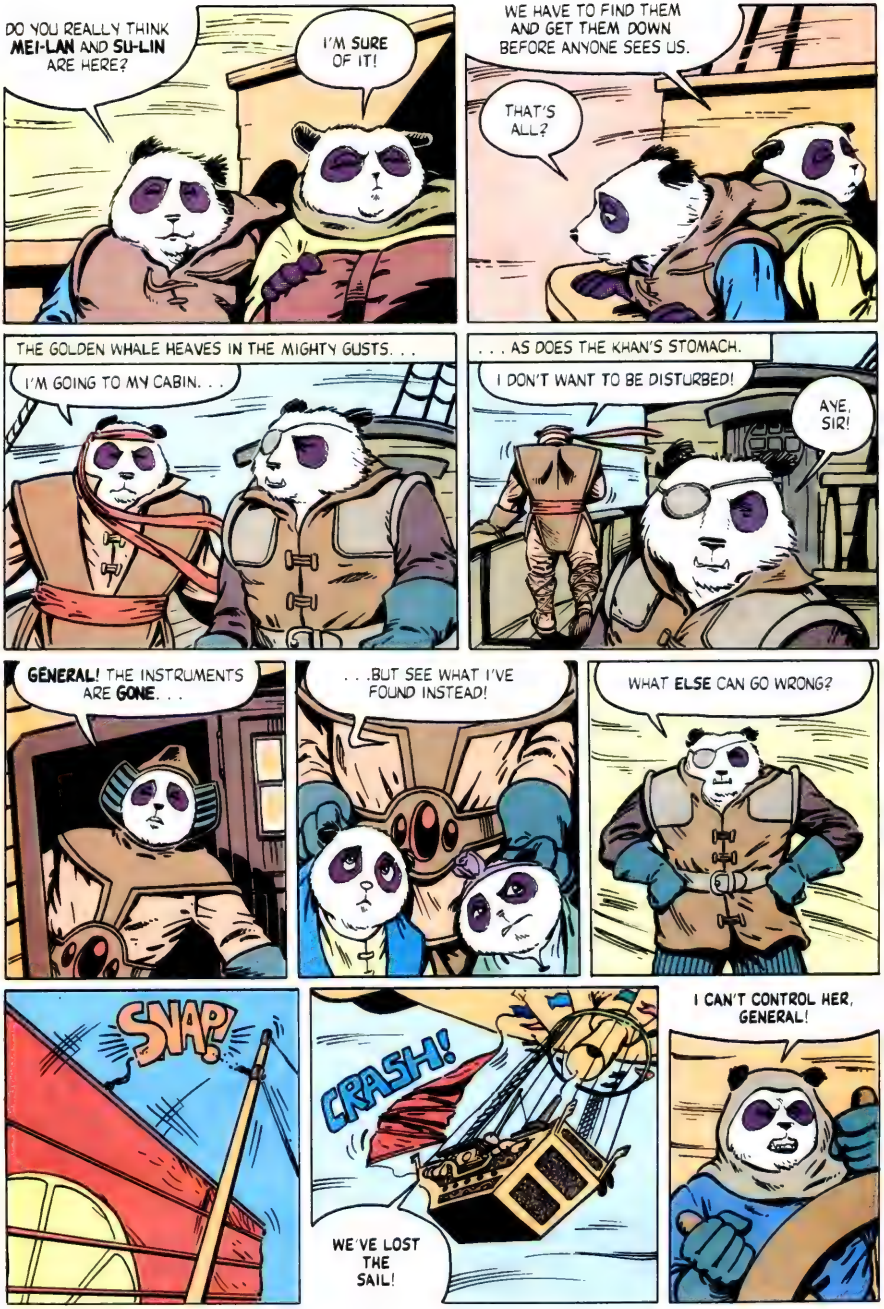
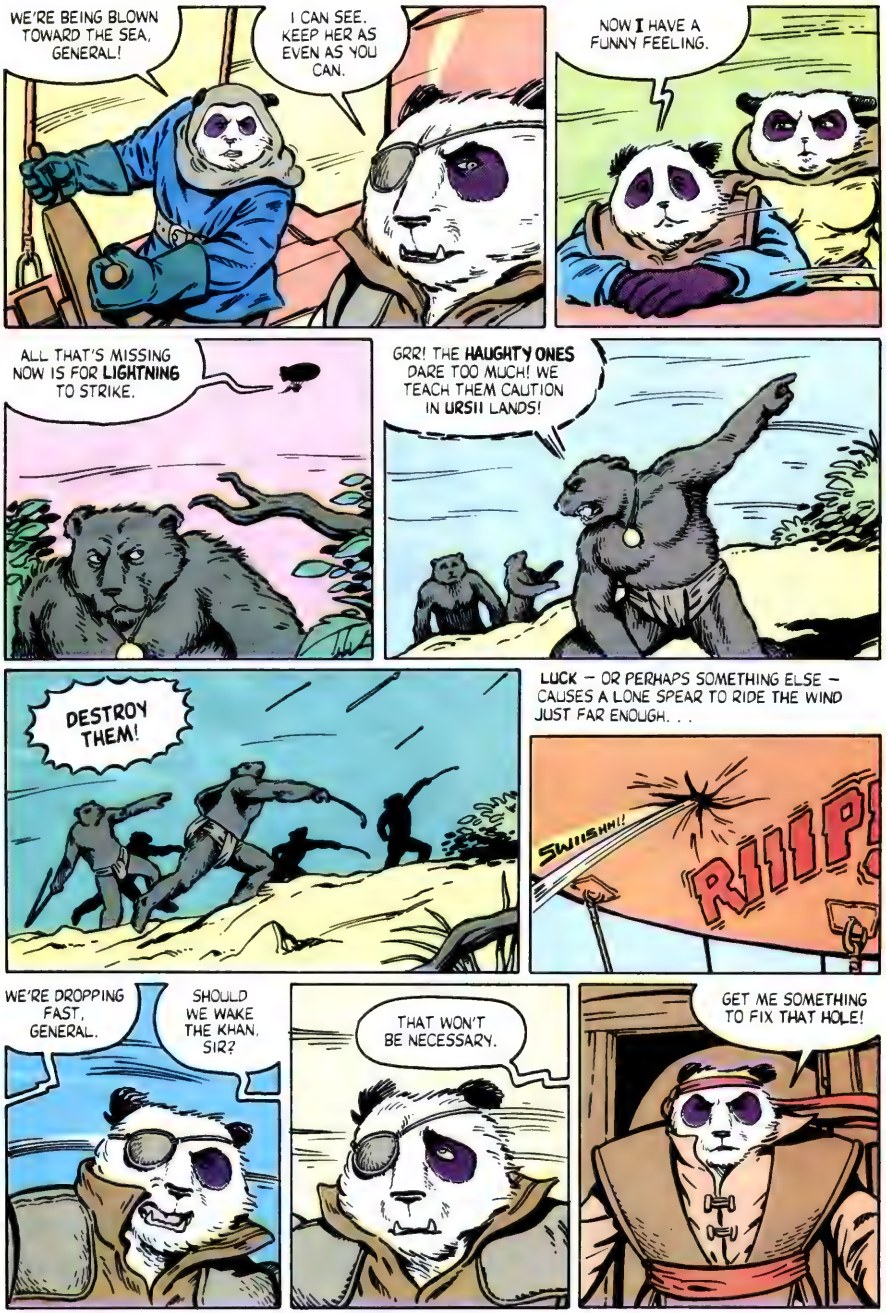
CHING SHAI AND HER BEST FRIEND, YU HSIAO, SEARCH FOR HER LITTLE BROTHER AND SISTER. . .
THEY WOULD PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK NOW.
INSIDE THE AIRSHIP. . .
HEE HEE HEE!
SHHH!
PERMISSION TO SAIL, MY LORD?
GRANTED, GENERAL.
THE SOONER WE'RE UP, THE SOONER WE'LL BE BACK ON SOLID GROUND.
CAST OFF!
UH OH! I HAVE A FUNNY FEELING. . .
...THAT MEI AND SU ARE UP THERE!
IMPULSIVELY. . .
HURRY, YU, JUMP!
P'AN, HELP ME!
WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT A FUNNY FEELING?

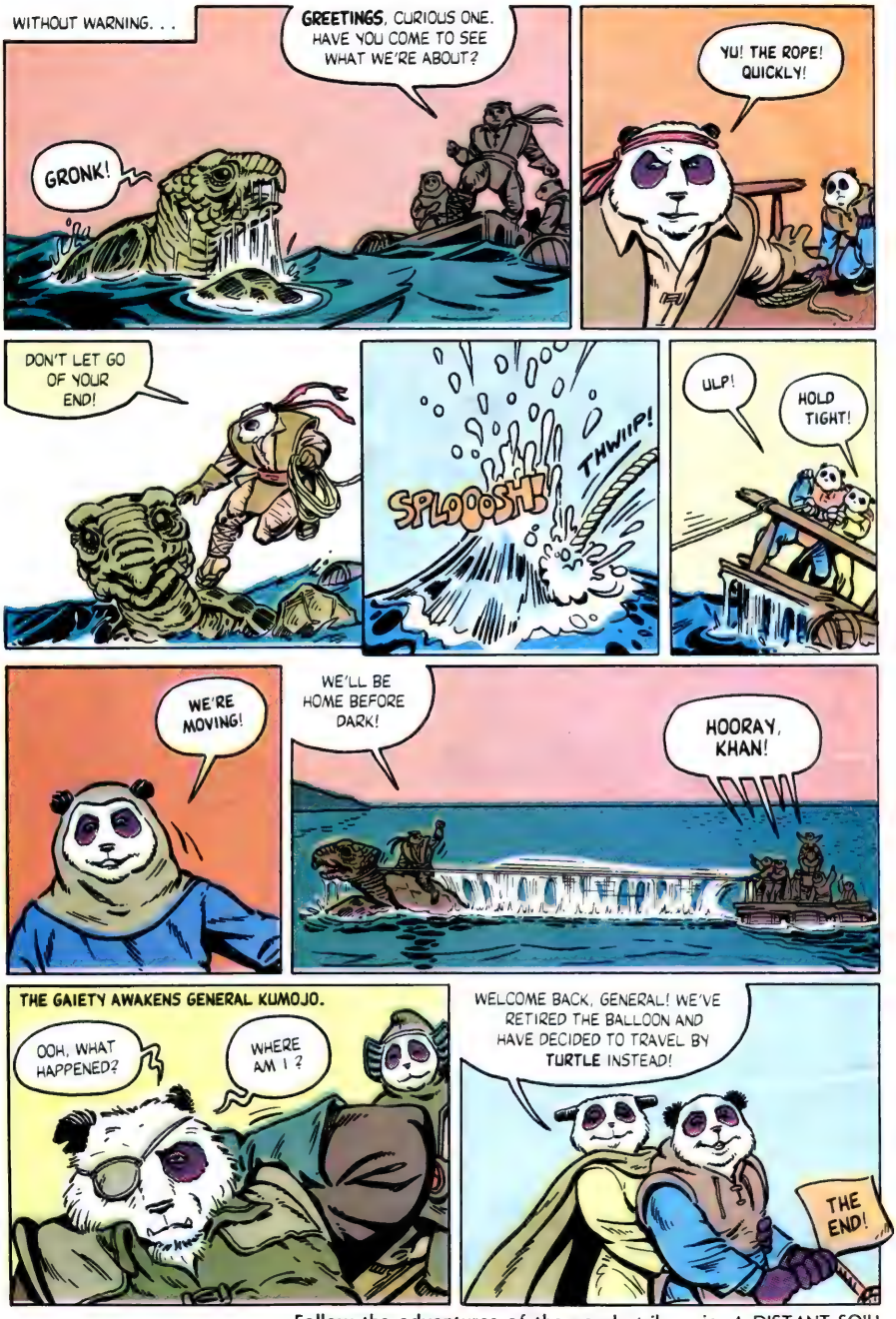

SHE'S A BIT SLUGGISH, GENERAL.
THAT'S THE WIND OFF THE CLIFFS. SHE'LL SMOOTH OUT.
FEELS HEAVY — LIKE WE'VE TOO MUCH WEIGHT!
DIDJA' HEAR THAT, SU-LIN?
THESE WEIGH A LOT. MAYBE WE SHOULD. . .
. . . THROW THEM OUT!
HEE HEE HEE!
WE'D BETTER GET UP THERE.
AT THAT MOMENT...
WHAT'S THISSS?
TIME FOR THE LORD OF DEATH. . .
. . . TO TEST HIS WEATHER CONTROL!
MINUTES LATER...
I THOUGHT WE WERE ABOVE THE STRONG WINDS!
'TIS UNCOMMON. FEN, BRING UP THE INSTRUMENTS!
ELSEWHERE ON BOARD...
WHEW. THAT WIND!


DO YOU REALLY THINK MEI-LAN AND SU-LIN ARE HERE?
I'M SURE OF IT!
WE HAVE TO FIND THEM AND GET THEM DOWN BEFORE ANYONE SEES US.
THAT'S ALL?
THE GOLDEN WHALE HEAVES IN THE MIGHTY GUSTS. . .
I'M GOING TO MY CABIN. . .
. . . AS DOES THE KHAN'S STOMACH.
I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED!
AYE, SIR!
GENERAL! THE INSTRUMENTS ARE GONE. . .
. . .BUT SEE WHAT I'VE FOUND INSTEAD!
WHAT ELSE CAN GO WRONG?
SNAP!
CRASH!
WE'VE LOST THE SAIL!
I CAN'T CONTROL HER, GENERAL!


WE'RE BEING BLOWN TOWARD THE SEA, GENERAL!
I CAN SEE. KEEP HER AS EVEN AS YOU CAN.
NOW I HAVE A FUNNY FEELING.
ALL THAT'S MISSING NOW IS FOR LIGHTNING TO STRIKE.
GRR! THE HAUGHTY ONES DARE TOO MUCH! WE TEACH THEM CAUTION IN URSII LANDS!
DESTROY THEM!
LUCK — OR PERHAPS SOMETHING ELSE — CAUSES A LONE SPEAR TO RIDE THE WIND JUST FAR ENOUGH. . .
SWISHH!!
RIIIP!
WE'RE DROPPING FAST, GENERAL.
SHOULD WE WAKE THE KHAN, SIR?
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
GET ME SOMETHING TO FIX THAT HOLE!

STOKE THAT FURNACE! MAKE IT AS HOT AS YOU CAN!
I'VE GOT THE AWLS AND CORD.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO!
THE TREACHEROUS WIND'S FURY SEEMS TO INCREASE.
SSSSSS!
RRRIIIP!
WHOOSH!
KUMO!
WHOOOSH!
YEEEEAH!
OH NO! CAN WE STAY UP WITH TWO HOLES IN THE BALLOON?
KER-PLASH!

SUDDENLY, THE HELLISH WIND CEASES — LEAVING ONLY THE QUIET CREAKING OF THE AIRSHIP'S WRECKAGE.
ARE YOU INJURED? WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
MY LORD!
THE CUBS ARE UNHURT. THIS ROOF IS STURDY — IT CAN SUPPORT US ALL.
THIS IS FUN!
SECURE THOSE BARRELS TO THE ROOF. CAPTAIN, HELP ME SEARCH FOR THE OTHERS.
SOON. . .
. . . A FEW BROKEN AND BRUISED RIBS, WE'VE ALL PULLED THROUGH. .
. . . BUT I FEAR THE GENERAL'S SOUL HAS GONE TO JOIN HIS. . .
M'LORD, LOOK!
HELP!
THE GENERAL IS HURT!
HURRY!
NEPHEW! CHING SHA!! WHAT ARE YOU. . .? OH, NEVER MIND!
REUNITED, THE INTREPID BAND TAKES STOCK OF THE SITUATION. . .
I'M HUNGRY!
ME TOO!
HOW FAR ARE WE FROM HOME?
CAPTAIN, CAN FISH REALLY EAT PANDA? FEN SAID. . .
HUSH!
BUT, CHING. . .
I MEAN IT, MEI-LAN!


WITHOUT WARNING. . .
GREETINGS, CURIOUS ONE. HAVE YOU COME TO SEE WHAT WE'RE ABOUT?
GRONK!
YU! THE ROPE! QUICKLY!
DON'T LET GO OF YOUR END!
SPLOOOSH!
THWIIP!
ULP!
HOLD TIGHT!
WE'RE MOVING!
WE'LL BE HOME BEFORE DARK!
HOORAY, KHAN!
THE GAIETY AWAKENS GENERAL KUMOJO.
OOH, WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE AM I?
WELCOME BACK, GENERAL! WE'VE RETIRED THE BALLOON AND HAVE DECIDED TO TRAVEL BY TURTLE INSTEAD!
THE END!

Follow the adventures of the panda tribe - in A DISTANT SOIL!

FOR EDDY, THE **DUKE OF CLARENCE**, THE FALL OF 1888 HAS BROUGHT THE AUTUMN OF HIS LIFE. HE HAS CONFRONTED DEATH IN THE FORM OF **COUNT DRACULA**. FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS DAYS HE WILL LIVE IN FEAR OF THE REAPER'S SHADOW.

Christmas Spirits

AND SO, THE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS FIND EDDY, HIS FRIEND **JAMES STEPHEN**, AND THEIR DOCTOR, **SIR WILLIAM GULL**, SEEKING ARCANE DIVERSION.

ON THE **ASTRAL PLANE** ALL ARE SAFE FROM WORLDLY HARM. BUT--

R.J. LEES SPIRITUALIST TO ROYALTY

SAFE?! THEN THAT'S THE PLACE FOR **ME!** **DRACULA** WON'T FIND ME THERE! SEND ME... **NOW!**

ALONE? OH... VERY WELL.

RICKEY SHANKLIN story

MARK WHEATLEY story/lnks/color

MARC HEMPEL pencils/letters

KATHRYN MAYER letters/color

THE POWER OF R.J. LEES IS WELL KNOWN IN LONDON--AND NOW EDDY EXPERIENCES THE SPIRITUALIST'S ABILITIES FIRST HAND.
RELAX, EDDY...
...FEEL YOURSELF FLOAT...
...AND SLIP AWAY
SOUNDS THAT ARE DISTANT RING IN EDDY'S HEAD--A MILLION VOICES SING A DREAMY, RHYTHMIC HYMN.
THE AROMA OF COFFEE.
THE MOIST FEELING OF A WARM, WET BED.
HE DID IT! HE BLOODY WELL DID IT!
EDDY SHARES THE PHANTOM SENSATIONS--YET HE GOES UNNOTICED.
FOOLS! THEY'RE ALL WALKING IN THEIR SLEEP...
LOOK--A LOVERS' DREAM.
HELEN, LOVE
CHARLES, WANT YOU
WARM
WANT
NEED

THEY TOUCH, EVEN IN THEIR SLEEP.
BUT HOW? UNLESS...
SEDUCTRESS! WHORE!
LURING A MAN ASTRAY IN HIS DREAMS!
BY MY HAND THERE WILL BE AN END TO THAT!
BY THE HAND OF JACK THE RIPPER!
AND, SOMEWHERE, A WOMAN WAKES, SCREAMING.
YOU THERE! AWAY WITH YOU OR I'LL RUN YOU THROUGH!
AH!
A SWORD FOR A SWORD!
BUT NO CUT FOR MY CUT!
AND, IN THE BARRACKS OF THE PALACE GUARD, AN OFFICER AWAKES, CLUTCHING HIS UNHARMED SHOULDER.

HA!
WITH SUCH A SWORD-- EVEN DRACULA WOULD FALL BEFORE MY MIGHT!
ON THE ASTRAL PLANE THE THOUGHT IS THE DEED...
!
DRACULA!
YOU!
I KNOW NOT HOW YOU CAME HERE, ROYAL MURDERER, BUT YOU'LL NOT LEAVE ALIVE!
NOW WE'LL FINISH WHAT WE STARTED. ALONE, JUST THE TWO OF US.
I WITH MY BARE HANDS--YOU WITH YOUR TOY!
TOY? SURPRISE, SURPRISE!

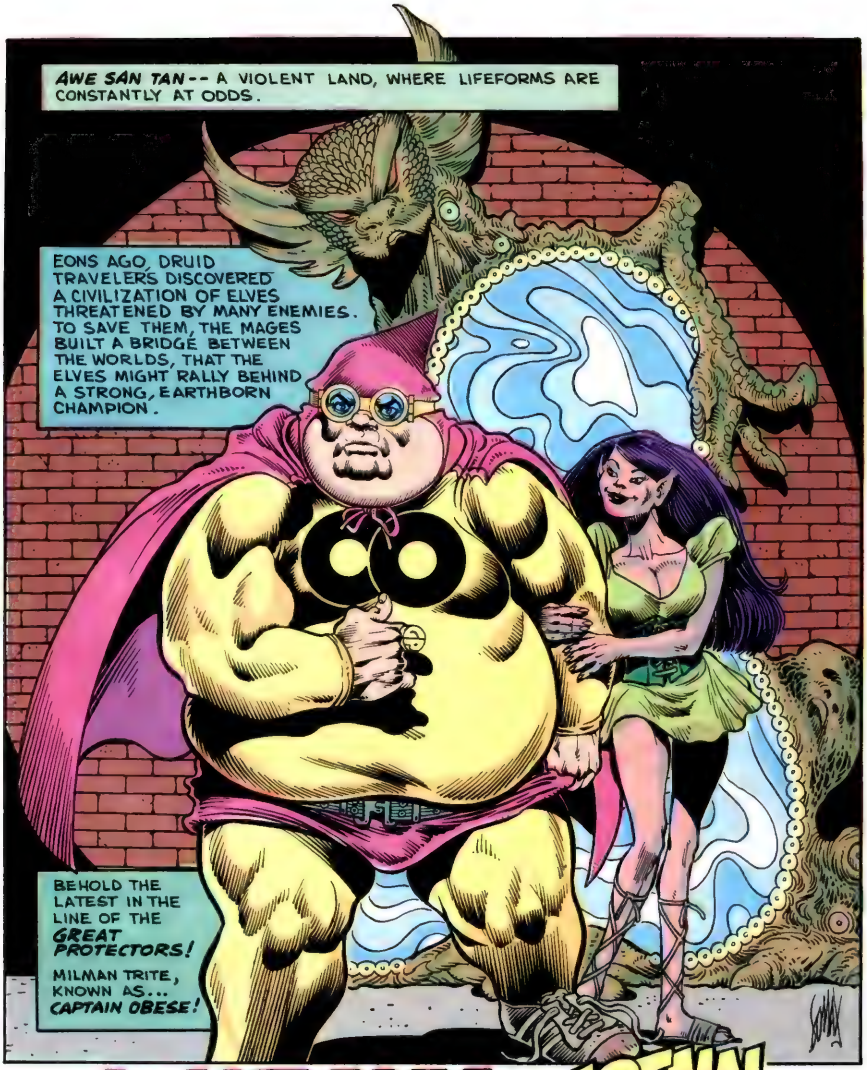
THIS "TOY" IS THE SWORD OF JUSTICE! NOW JUSTICE BE DONE, DAMN YOU!
AAAGH!
YOUR CURSE IS WASTED! ALL ARE DAMNED IN THE HOUSE OF DRACULA!
?
WE ARE IN YOUR HOUSE? BUT I WALK WITH POWER ON THE ASTRAL PLANE!
INDEED?
WHAP!!
HOW? I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SAFE! WILL I NEVER BE RID OF YOU-- TO SLEEP AT NIGHT AGAIN?
YOU WILL SLEEP!
YOU WILL SLEEP FOREVER!
WAK!

WHOOSH!
SSSSSSSS
YOU KILLED THE WOMAN I LOVED--
YOU KILLED HER!
EAGH!
SKURRAK!

ATTEND ME, MY PETS! REMOVE THIS TRASH FROM MY HOME!
ARRRGHH!

EYAAHHHHHHHHH!
EDDY!
HE'S ALIVE, BUT HIS MIND HAS GONE.
JAMES, CONTACT THE SANITORIUM AND HAVE HIS ROOM PREPARED.
I THINK HE'LL BE STAYING THIS TIME.
WHAT DID EDDY FIND ON THE ASTRAL PLANE, I WONDER?
WELL...
...I'M SURE HE SAW JUST WHAT HE EXPECTED TO SEE.

Read the full story of Dracula vs. Jack the Ripper in BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT - still on sale!


AWE SAN TAN-- A VIOLENT LAND, WHERE LIFEFORMS ARE CONSTANTLY AT ODDS.
EONS AGO, DRUID TRAVELERS DISCOVERED A CIVILIZATION OF ELVES THREATENED BY MANY ENEMIES. TO SAVE THEM, THE MAGES BUILT A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE WORLDS, THAT THE ELVES MIGHT RALLY BEHIND A STRONG, EARTHBORN CHAMPION.
BEHOLD THE LATEST IN THE LINE OF THE GREAT PROTECTORS!
MILMAN TRITE, KNOWN AS... CAPTAIN OBESE!

THE HEAVY ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN OBESE!

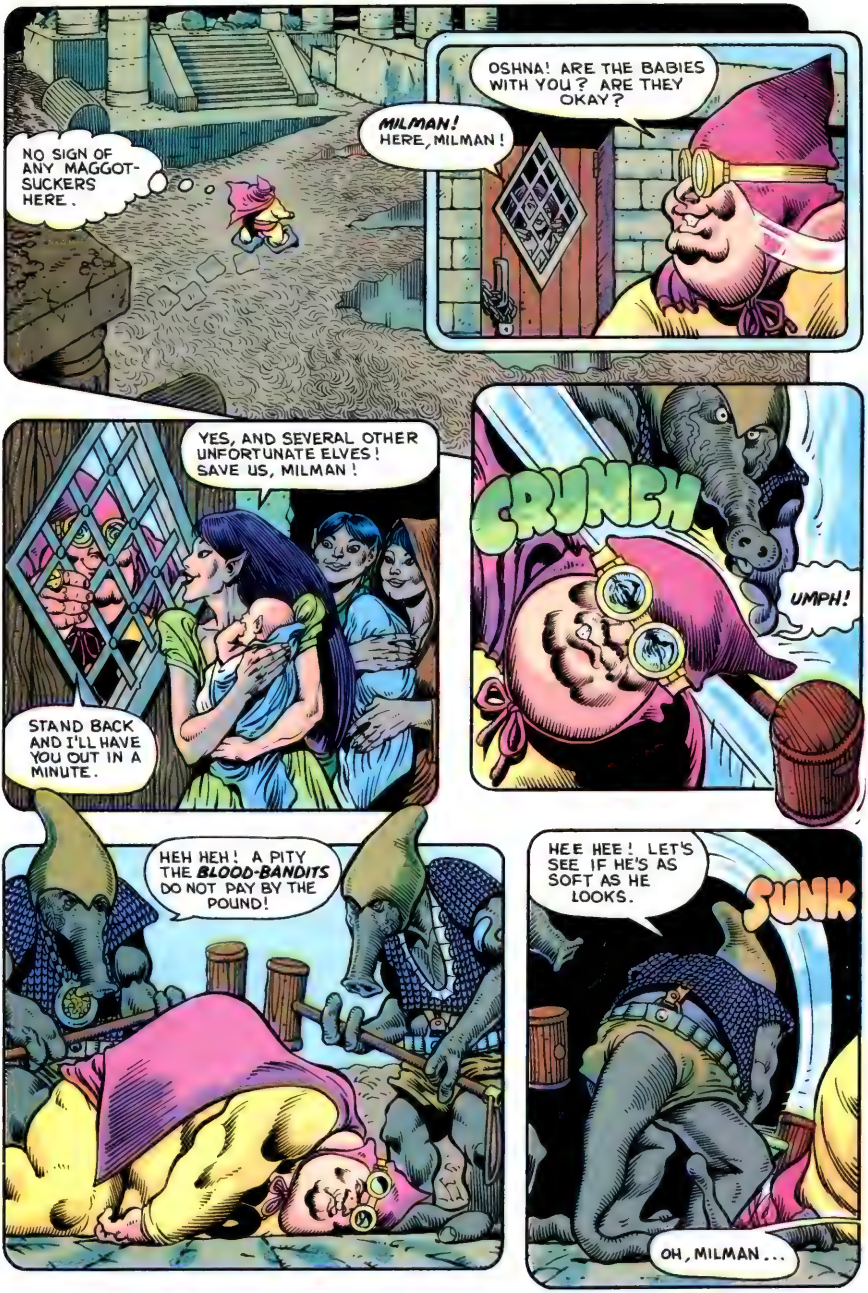
THE UTRIPNEEN CONNECTION

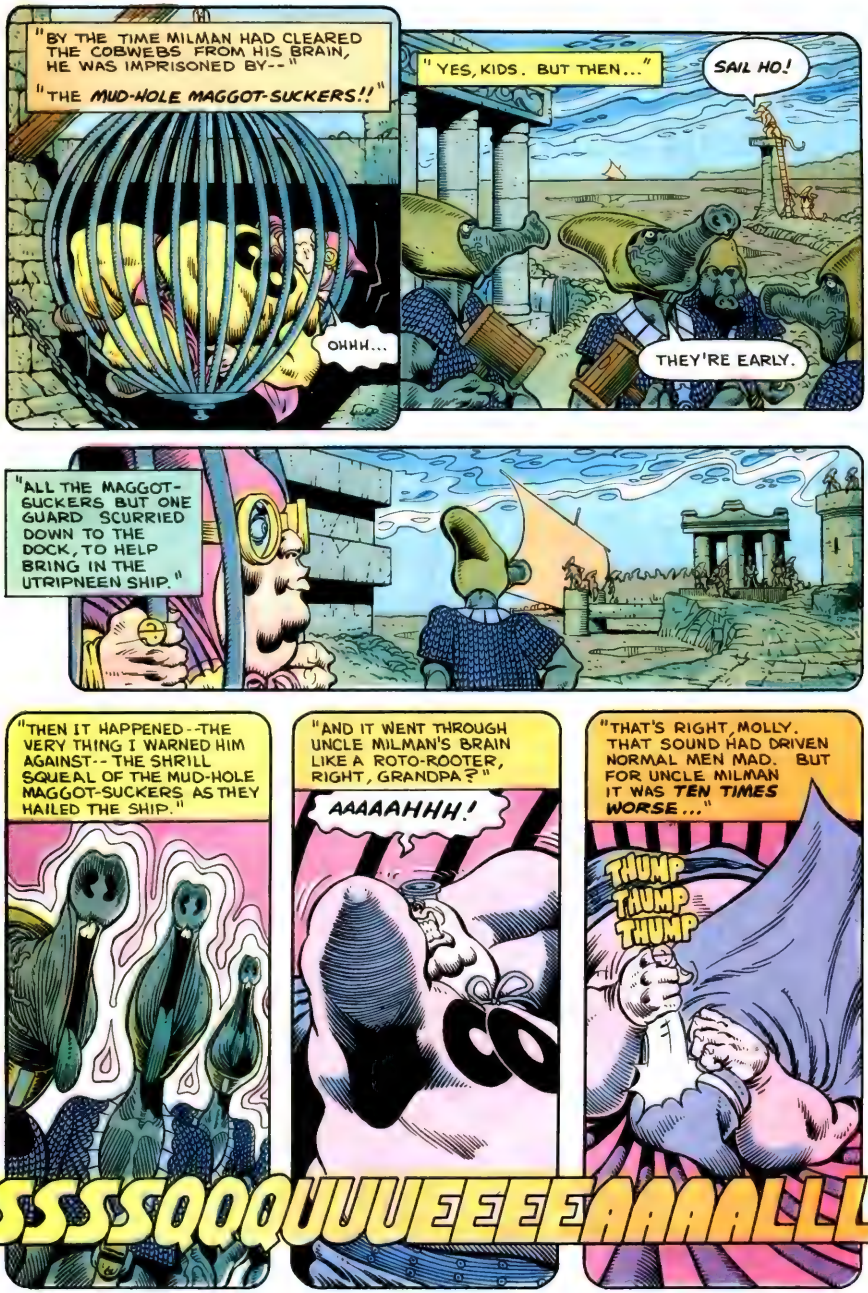
STORY & ART – DON LOMAX
COLORING – BRUCE PATTERSON
EDITING – RICHARD PINI & JOELLYN DORKIN

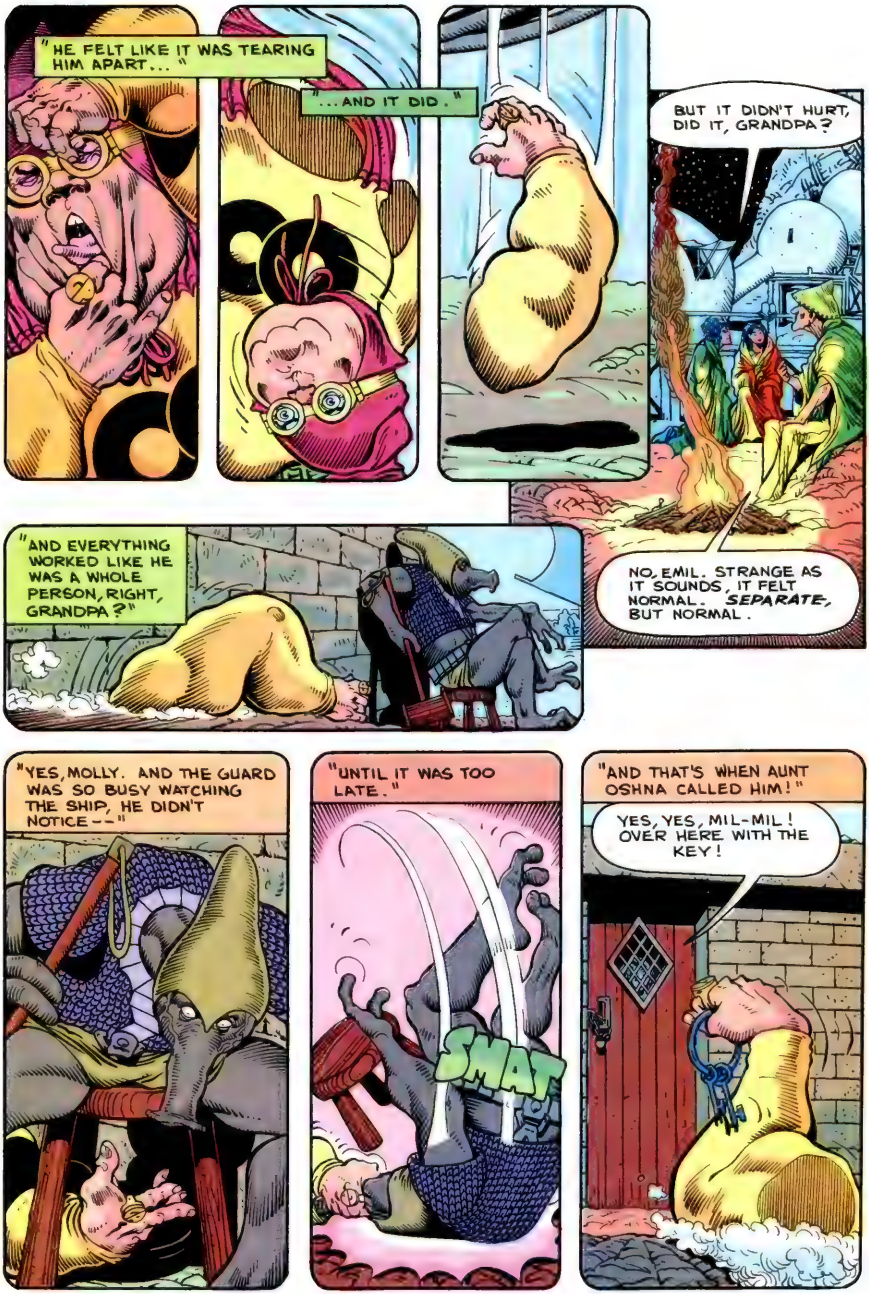
YOU LITTLE ONES SHOULD BE ASLEEP BY NOW. YOUR UNCLE MILMAN WILL BE HERE EARLY TOMORROW TO TAKE YOU ROCK-CHUCKING IN THE VALLEY OF WINDS.
NOT YET! TELL US ANOTHER GREAT PROTECTOR STORY, GRANDPA!
ALL RIGHT. JUST ONE! WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT TO HEAR?
OH, THE ONE WITH EMIL AND ME!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. IT ALL STARTED WHEN YOU WERE JUST BABIES. IT WAS AFTER YOUR UNCLE'S FIRST BIG ADVENTURE.
"IT WAS HIS FIRST CHANCE TO THINK ABOUT WHO HE WAS, WHERE HE WAS, AND WHAT HE'D BECOME."
I CAN'T RETURN TO EARTH. I'M WANTED FOR MURDER! BUT IF I STAY HERE, I HAVE TO KEEP PLAYING SUPERHERO!
NOT MUCH HELP HERE. SURE, THE RING OF RINGS AMPLIFIES MY EMOTIONS TENFOLD, BUT I CAN'T CONTROL IT. INSTEAD OF TEN TIMES AS BRAVE, I COULD END UP TEN TIMES AS TERRIFIED!
LUNCH IS READY, MIL-MIL! MY SISTER IS VERY IMPRESSED. YOU'RE VERY BIG IN HER EYES.

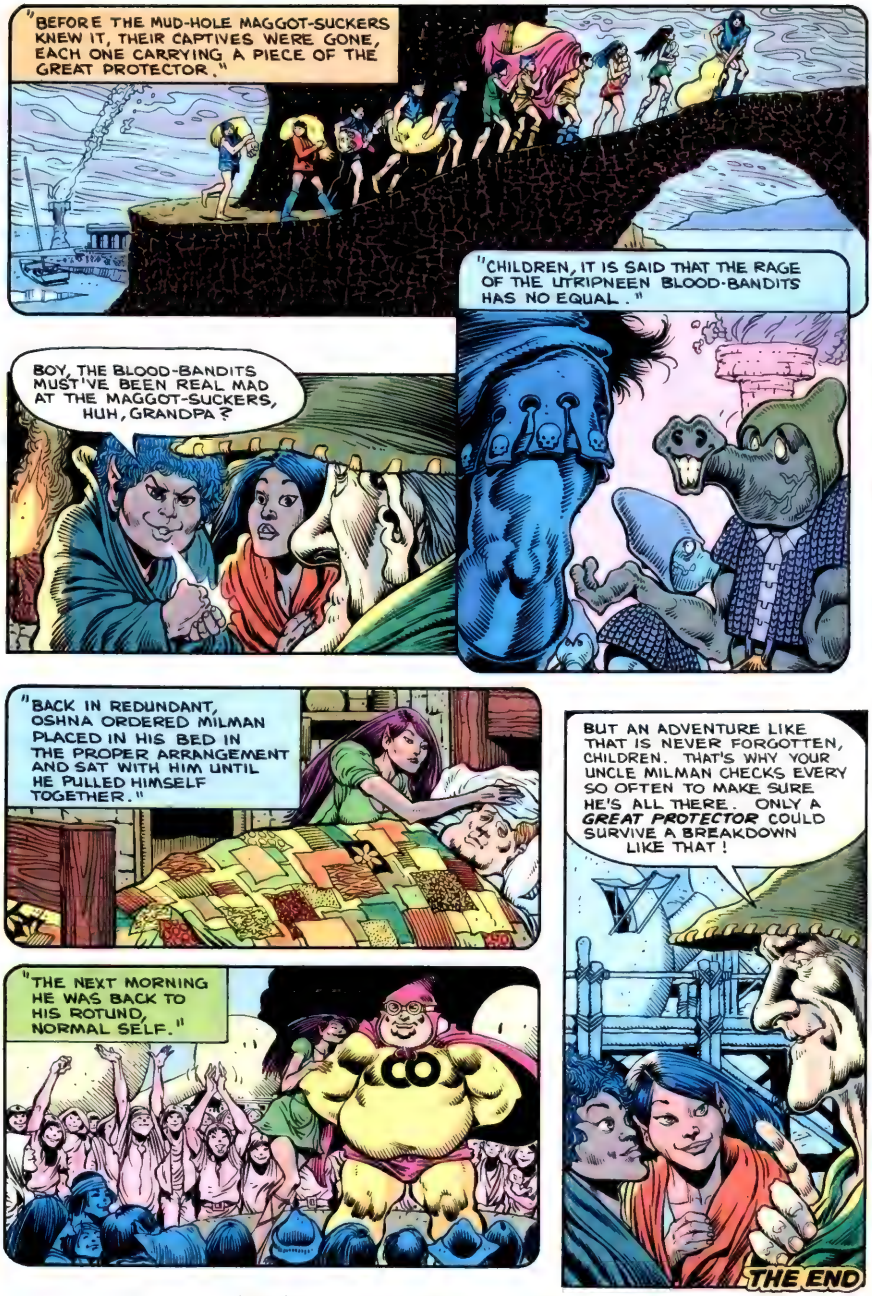
"MILMAN BEGAN TO RELAX. FOOD ALWAYS CALMED HIM DOWN."
"SO THEY HAD A PICNIC. WHERE'S THE GOOD PART, GRANDPA?"
"THE HORRIBLE PART, EMIL, WAS MOMENTS AWAY."
"SUDDENLY THE BOG ERUPTED."
MY BABIES... MY BABIES!
MILMAN, HELP! HELP MY SISTER!
"MILMAN RESCUED YOUR MOTHER, BUT OSHNA AND YOU TWO WERE PULLED INTO THE SLIME BY--"
"THE MUD-HOLE MAGGOT-SUCKERS!!"
"RIGHT, KIDS."
OSHNA!
MY BABIES!

"THEN YOUR UNCLE MILMAN GOT BUSY ..."
YOU ROUND UP ALL THE OTHERS AND GET THEM BACK TO REDUNDANT!
'TWEREN'T FOR THIS DANGED GOUT I'D GO WITH YOU, BUT I'D ONLY SLOW YOU DOWN!
NOW LISTEN! YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST...
THE CREATURES WHO TOOK OSHNA AND THE BABIES WERE MUD-HOLE MAGGOT-SUCKERS. THEY'RE NOT TOO BAD-- JUST SLAVE MERCHANTS DEALING IN ELF FLESH!
THEY'LL TAKE THE ELVES TO THIS POINT TO MAKE THE DELIVERY.
DELIVERY TO WHOM?
SEA OF MUD
THE UTRIPNEEN BLOOD-BANDITS!
UTRIPNEEN B-BLOOD BANDITS? WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH ELVES?
YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
AND ONE LAST WARNING! THE SHRILL SQUEAL OF THE MUD-HOLE MAGGOT-SUCKERS WILL SHATTER YOUR NERVES AND DRIVE YOU INSANE. DON'T GET EXPOSED TO IT!
THAT SHOULD BE THE DELIVERY POINT. OSHNA'S FATHER OUGHT TO BE RIGHT-- AFTER ALL, HE WAS GREAT PROTECTOR HERE BEFORE ME!


NO SIGN OF ANY MAGGOT-SUCKERS HERE.
MILMAN! HERE, MILMAN!
OSHNA! ARE THE BABIES WITH YOU? ARE THEY OKAY?
YES, AND SEVERAL OTHER UNFORTUNATE ELVES! SAVE US, MILMAN!
STAND BACK AND I'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN A MINUTE.
CRUNCH
UMPH!
HEH HEH! A PITY THE BLOOD-BANDITS DO NOT PAY BY THE POUND!
HEE HEE! LET'S SEE IF HE'S AS SOFT AS HE LOOKS.
SUNK
OH, MILMAN...


"BY THE TIME MILMAN HAD CLEARED THE COBWEBS FROM HIS BRAIN, HE WAS IMPRISONED BY--"
"THE MUD-HOLE MAGGOT-SUCKERS!!"
OHHH...
"YES, KIDS. BUT THEN..."
SAIL HO!
THEY'RE EARLY.
"ALL THE MAGGOT-SUCKERS BUT ONE GUARD SCURRIED DOWN TO THE DOCK, TO HELP BRING IN THE UTRIPNEEN SHIP."
"THEN IT HAPPENED--THE VERY THING I WARNED HIM AGAINST-- THE SHRILL SQUEAL OF THE MUD-HOLE MAGGOT-SUCKERS AS THEY HAILED THE SHIP."
"AND IT WENT THROUGH UNCLE MILMAN'S BRAIN LIKE A ROTO-ROOTER, RIGHT, GRANDPA?"
AAAAAHHH!
"THAT'S RIGHT, MOLLY. THAT SOUND HAD DRIVEN NORMAL MEN MAD. BUT FOR UNCLE MILMAN IT WAS TEN TIMES WORSE..."
THUMP THUMP THUMP
SSSSQQQUUUEEEEAAAALLL


"HE FELT LIKE IT WAS TEARING HIM APART..."
"...AND IT DID."
BUT IT DIDN'T HURT, DID IT, GRANDPA?
NO, EMIL. STRANGE AS IT SOUNDS, IT FELT NORMAL. SEPARATE, BUT NORMAL.
"AND EVERYTHING WORKED LIKE HE WAS A WHOLE PERSON, RIGHT, GRANDPA?"
"YES, MOLLY. AND THE GUARD WAS SO BUSY WATCHING THE SHIP, HE DIDN'T NOTICE--"
"UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE."
SMAT
"AND THAT'S WHEN AUNT OSHNA CALLED HIM!"
YES, YES, MIL-MIL! OVER HERE WITH THE KEY!


"BEFORE THE MUD-HOLE MAGGOT-SUCKERS KNEW IT, THEIR CAPTIVES WERE GONE, EACH ONE CARRYING A PIECE OF THE GREAT PROTECTOR."
"CHILDREN, IT IS SAID THAT THE RAGE OF THE UTRIPNEEN BLOOD-BANDITS HAS NO EQUAL."
BOY, THE BLOOD-BANDITS MUST'VE BEEN REAL MAD AT THE MAGGOT-SUCKERS, HUH, GRANDPA?
"BACK IN REDUNDANT, OSHNA ORDERED MILMAN PLACED IN HIS BED IN THE PROPER ARRANGEMENT AND SAT WITH HIM UNTIL HE PULLED HIMSELF TOGETHER."
BUT AN ADVENTURE LIKE THAT IS NEVER FORGOTTEN, CHILDREN. THAT'S WHY YOUR UNCLE MILMAN CHECKS EVERY SO OFTEN TO MAKE SURE HE'S ALL THERE. ONLY A GREAT PROTECTOR COULD SURVIVE A BREAKDOWN LIKE THAT!
"THE NEXT MORNING HE WAS BACK TO HIS ROTUND, NORMAL SELF."
THE END

Watch for the the origin of Captain Obese - coming in FANTASCI #1!

UNICORN ISLE TALES

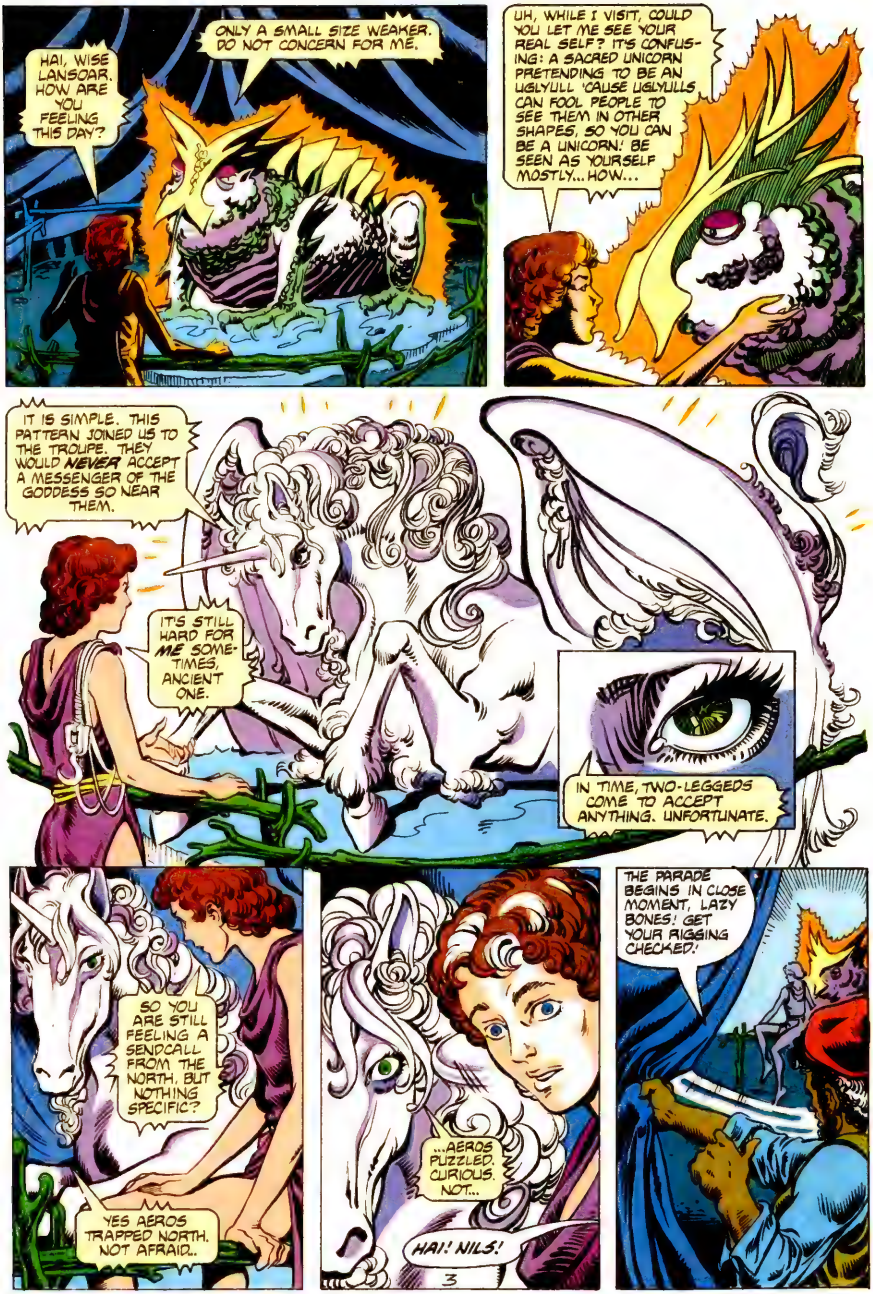
©1985 MARRS, KOENIG AND TANGHAL

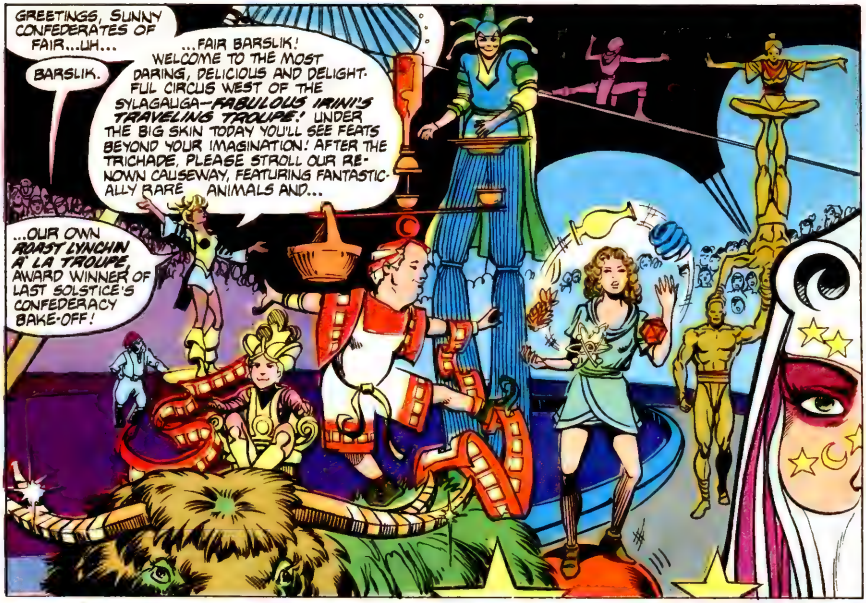
CIRCUS FLAMBÉ

ANOTHER PLACE...ANOTHER TIME...
NILS! YOU DIMMOX! I'VE GOT TO DO THAT FIVE CROSSOVER IN THE SHOW THIS AFTERNOON!
HA!
HA! YOU DIDN'T SENSE ME AT ALL! I GOT RIGHT UP TO YOU, SO I CAN BLOCK THE LINKING. NYAA!

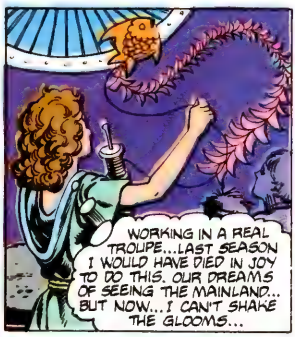
script, layout & colors: LEE MARRS- pencils: NICHOLAS KOENIG inks: RAMEO TANGHAL letters: Carrie Spiegle

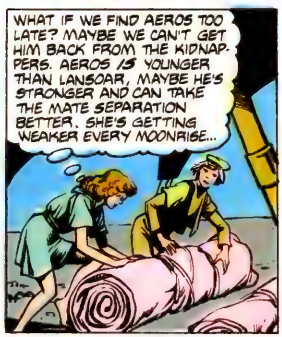
WHY...UH...THAT'S JUST BECAUSE I WAS CONCENTRATING ON THE CROSSOVER. IT DOESN'T COUNT!
OH, SURE, NOLA.
YOU'RE WASTING TIME ON SILLY GAMES! WE HAVE TO BE ON THE ALERT EVERY MOMENT IF...
I'M ON THE LOOKOUT! YOU'RE THE ONE ALL MOODY AND WRAPPED UP IN YOUR SELF. I SEE PLENTY. I SEE...
YOU SEE WHAT? WORMS? GOPHERS?
NOW, YOU TWINS LISTEN: WE LET YOU JOIN THE TROUPE BECAUSE YOUR UGLYULL WAS PERFECT FOR OUR BEASTPEEKS...
...AND YOU PROMISED TO WORK. SO...GET TO WORK!
AAAH... SHE'S SO...
...BOSSY. BUT YOU THINK EVERYTHING SHE DOES IS WUNN-DER-FULLL. NILS. SNAP OUT OF IT. YOU SHOULD GO CHECK ON LANSOAR AND STOP THAT MOONING!
I DON'T MEAN TO BE CROSS, BUT I MISS THE ISLE. IT'S HARVEST AND WE'VE NEVER MISSED THE HILLSREAP. THE BERRIES AND THE GRAPES. I MISS THE SINGING...
I MISS MAMA.
YES. MOST OF ALL.
GENUINE UGLYULL
LANSOAR?


HAI, WISE LANSOAR. HOW ARE YOU FEELING THIS DAY?
ONLY A SMALL SIZE WEAKER. DO NOT CONCERN FOR ME.
UH, WHILE I VISIT, COULD YOU LET ME SEE YOUR REAL SELF? IT'S CONFUSING: A SACRED UNICORN PRETENDING TO BE AN UGLYULL 'CAUSE UGLYULLS CAN FOOL PEOPLE TO SEE THEM IN OTHER SHAPES, SO YOU CAN BE A UNICORN! BE SEEN AS YOURSELF MOSTLY... HOW...
IT IS SIMPLE. THIS PATTERN JOINED US TO THE TROUPE. THEY WOULD NEVER ACCEPT A MESSENGER OF THE GODDESS SO NEAR THEM.
IT'S STILL HARD FOR ME SOMETIMES, ANCIENT ONE.
IN TIME, TWO-LEGGEDS COME TO ACCEPT ANYTHING. UNFORTUNATE.
SO YOU ARE STILL FEELING A SENDCALL FROM THE NORTH, BUT NOTHING SPECIFIC?
YES AEROS TRAPPED NORTH. NOT AFRAID.
..AEROS PUZZLED. CURIOUS. NOT...
HAI! NILS!
THE PARADE BEGINS IN CLOSE MOMENT, LAZY BONES! GET YOUR RIGGING CHECKED!
3


GREETINGS, SUNNY CONFEDERATES OF FAIR...UH...
BARSLIK.
...FAIR BARSLIK! WELCOME TO THE MOST DARING, DELICIOUS AND DELIGHTFUL CIRCUS WEST OF THE SYLAGAUGA—FABULOUS IRINI'S TRAVELING TROUPE! UNDER THE BIG SKIN TODAY YOU'LL SEE FEATS BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION! AFTER THE TRICHADE, PLEASE STROLL OUR RENOWN CAUSEWAY, FEATURING FANTASTICALLY RARE ANIMALS AND...
...OUR OWN ROAST LYNCHIN A LA TROUPE, AWARD WINNER OF LAST SOLSTICE'S CONFEDERACY BAKE-OFF!

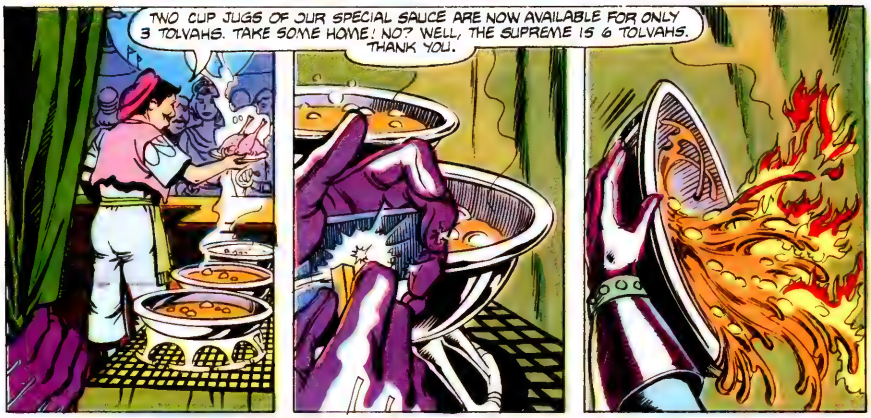
WATCH OUT, FINNY! MORE WING-LEFT, DAMMIT!

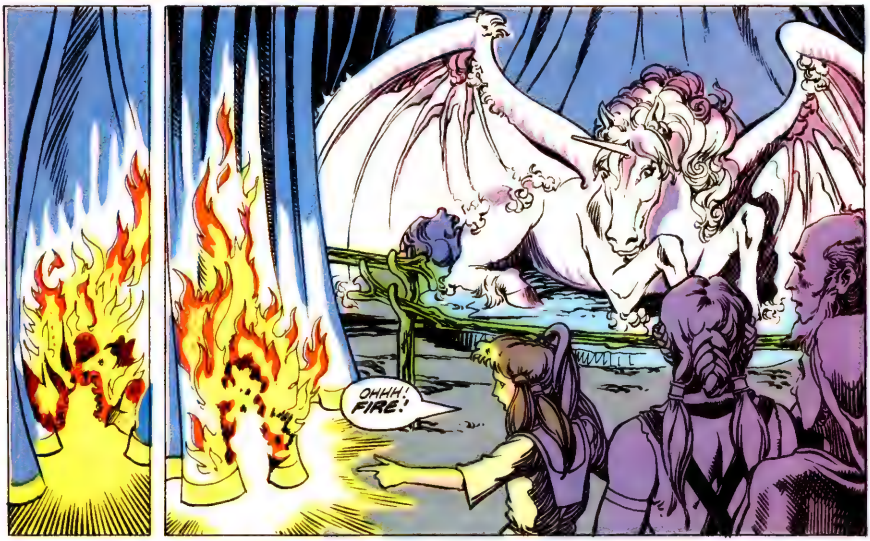

WORKING IN A REAL TROUPE...LAST SEASON I WOULD HAVE DIED IN JOY TO DO THIS. OUR DREAMS OF SEEING THE MAINLAND... BUT NOW...I CAN'T SHAKE THE GLOOMS...

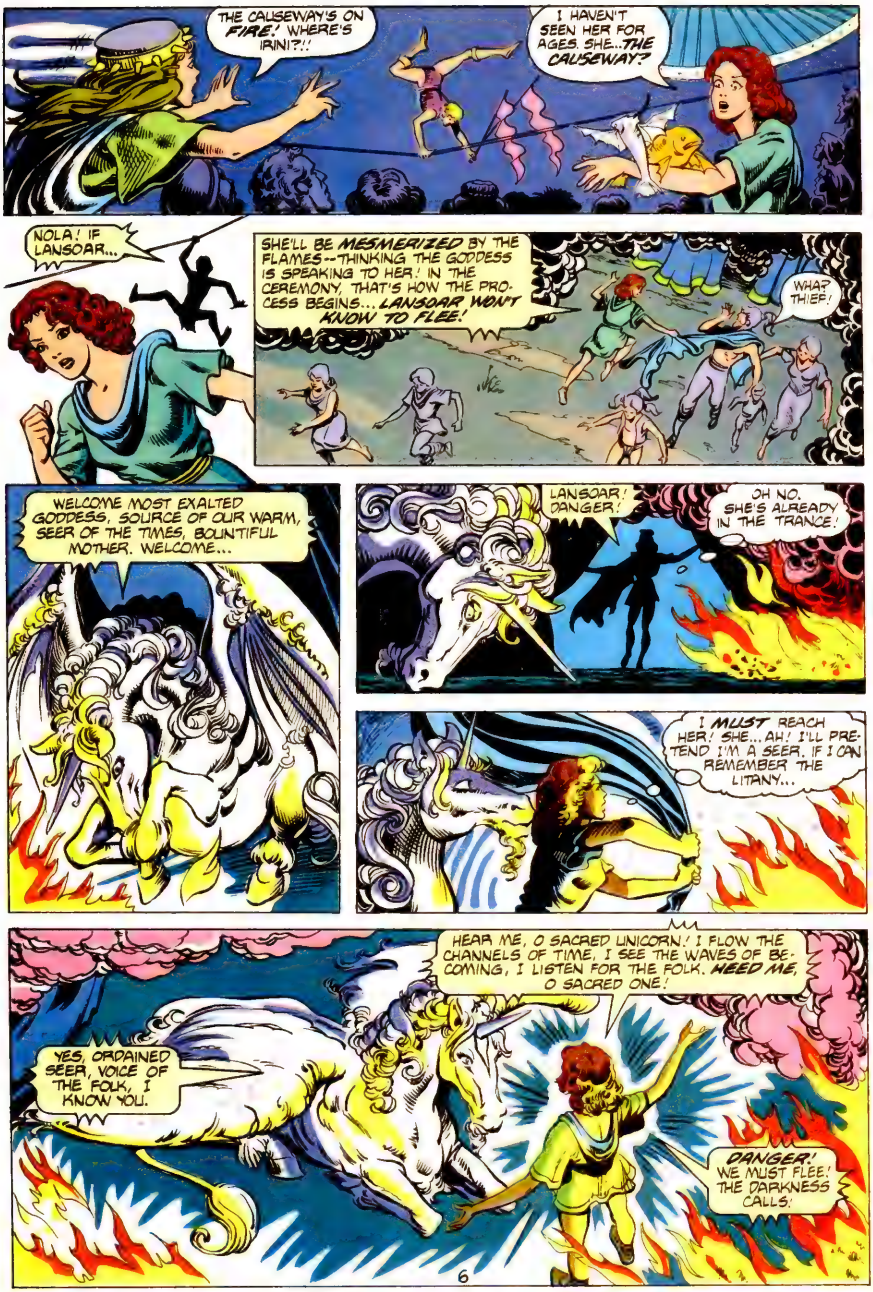

WHAT IF WE FIND AEROS TOO LATE? MAYBE WE CAN'T GET HIM BACK FROM THE KIDNAPPERS. AEROS IS YOUNGER THAN LANSOAR, MAYBE HE'S STRONGER AND CAN TAKE THE MATE SEPARATION BETTER. SHE'S GETTING WEAKER EVERY MOONRISE...

HAVE YOU SEEN MOURIS?
NO.

GENUINE UGLYULL
NEXT VIEWING IN 8 CLOSE MOMENTS. PLEASE STEP RIGHT HERE..TO SEE... THE AMAZING UGLYULL!
DON'T CROWD, CONFEDS. THERE'S PLENTY FOR EVERYONE! NOW, SIR...DID YOU WANT THE WHOLE ROAST DELUXE OR THE CITIZEN PACKET SUPREME?


TWO CUP JUGS OF OUR SPECIAL SAUCE ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR ONLY 3 TOLVAHS. TAKE SOME HOME! NO? WELL, THE SUPREME IS 6 TOLVAHS. THANK YOU.


OHHH! FIRE!


THE CAUSEWAY'S ON FIRE! WHERE'S IRINI?!!
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER FOR AGES. SHE...THE CAUSEWAY?
NOLA! IF LANSOAR...
SHE'LL BE MESMERIZED BY THE FLAMES--THINKING THE GODDESS IS SPEAKING TO HER! IN THE CEREMONY, THAT'S HOW THE PROCESS BEGINS... LANSOAR WON'T KNOW TO FLEE!
WHAT? THIEF!
WELCOME MOST EXALTED GODDESS, SOURCE OF OUR WARM, SEER OF THE TIMES, BOUNTIFUL MOTHER. WELCOME...
LANSOAR! DANGER!
OH NO. SHE'S ALREADY IN THE TRANCE!
I MUST REACH HER! SHE... AH! I'LL PRETEND I'M A SEER. IF I CAN REMEMBER THE LITANY...
HEAR ME, O SACRED UNICORN! I FLOW THE CHANNELS OF TIME. I SEE THE WAVES OF BECOMING. I LISTEN FOR THE FOLK. HEED ME, O SACRED ONE!
YES, ORDAINED SEER, VOICE OF THE FOLK, I KNOW YOU.
DANGER! WE MUST FLEE! THE DARKNESS CALLS!

LANSOAR! NOLA!
WE ARE BOTH SAFE. BALANCE.
THE TROUGHS ARE ALREADY DRY! WHERE'S IRINI?
WE'LL LOSE THE WHOLE CAUSEWAY!
BOUNTIFUL MOTHER! THAT'LL CUT OFF THE FIRE'S PROGRESS!
MOURIS! WHERE THE PIT HAVE YOU BEEN?
THE VILLAGERS ARE BRINGING WATER...
PRAISE TO THE MOTHER!
THANKS TO YOU BOTH FOR MY SAFETY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO IRINI? IS SHE...

IRINI IS ON THE JOB! NILS, YOU SAVED THE CAUSEWAY! WE'D HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT!
OF COURSE YOU NOW MUST GO CATCH THOSE RUN-AWAY BURDIS. HOP TO!
NOT SO FAST, HERO. LANSOAR SENSED SOMETHING THE MOMENT SHE CAME OUT OF THE TRANCE...
THE FIRE WAS NO ACCIDENT.
...MOST DEEP REGRETS ON MY FAILURE. I DIDN'T REALIZE THE TWINS' QUICK-WITTEDNESS ...OR COURAGE.
FOOL! UNICORN ISLERS FACE EVERY DANGER OF THE SEA FROM THE TIME THEY CAN CRAWL! THEY ARE BRED TO BE DARING! BEGONE.
BY THE MOTHER, RAZZOR! WE NEVER AGREED TO KILL LANSOAR! THE GODDESS...
QUIET! I HAVE ANOTHER SCHEME TO DESTROY THEIR QUEST, AND THEM AS WELL.
end.

Watch for UNICORN ISLE #1 - coming soon!

WARP WORDS NOTES FROM THE PUBLISHER

WaRP Graphics Annual Report

Welcome to the first ***WaRP Graphics Annual*** — the reflection of an experiment which, if it's successful, means that we'll never be able to publish a comic book quite like this again.

(What an odd thing for a publisher to say, right? You're wondering what he means by that? Read on.)

If you're a regular reader of any or all of our comics titles, this offering will come as a (pleasant, we hope) surprise to you. After all, WaRP hasn't been known for publishing color comics.

If this book is your introduction to the world of WaRP Graphics, then prepare yourself for a smorgasbord of storytelling delights, past, present, and future — a feast prepared to let you know what we're all about.

Unlike any other company's annual or sampler you may have come across in your reading, we have represented in these pages *every* single feature and artistic talent published by WaRP Graphics in the past year. *Elfquest.* Wendy Pini. Richard Pini. *Mythadventures.* Bob Asprin. Phil Foglio. *A Distant Soil.* Colleen Doran. *Thunderbunny.* Martin Greim. Brian Buniak. *Panda Khan.* Dave Garcia. Monica Sharp. *Blood of the Innocent.* Rickey Shanklin. Mark Wheatley. Marc Hempel.

But that's not all. Because we're also introducing and highlighting new features we're publishing starting in 1986. *Unicorn Isle.* Lee Marrs. Nicholas Koenig. Romeo Tanghal. *Captain Obese.* Don Lomax. The continuation of *Mythadventures*, with art by Valentino. As well as the lettering and coloring talents of Clem Robins, Diane Valentino, Bob Pinaha, Carrie Spiegel, Lee Marrs, Kathryn Mayer, Janice Cohen, and Bruce Patterson.

We're changing; we're growing. Back in early 1985 when we started planning this Annual, we knew that 1985 would be a significant year for us. We introduced our first color comics. We changed the size of our comics. 1986, it appears, holds even more surprises — and if even *some* of our plans come to pass, we won't be able to publish another Annual like this next year — 64 pages just won't be enough to fit all the things we're attempting!

(Oh — so *that's* what he meant.)

But you don't need to wait for next year's Annual to learn about WaRP's plans for the future, because one other newness we've introduced is the **WARP HOTLINE**. Just call (914) 462-0559 (nights and weekends *only*, please) for the latest weekly updates on what's going on in the world of comics publishing in Poughkeepsie. If you have computer access to Compuserve, you can also tie into their National Bulletin Board. Just look at the "Notices" section under the keyword WARPNEWS — and don't forget to keep on looking for the WaRP logo in 1986 at your favorite comics shop, or wherever you buy the best in independent comics.

Richard

RUMORS

Spreading the word one scan at a time